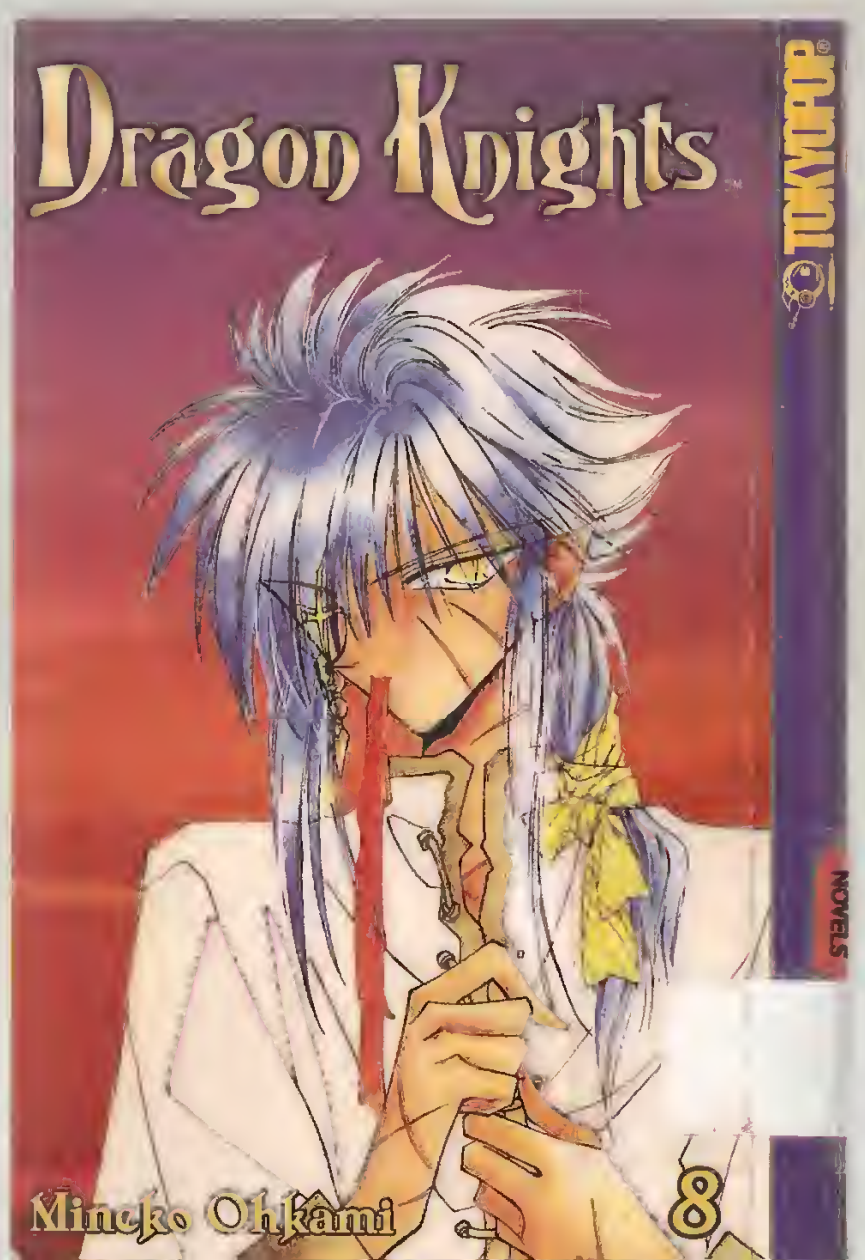

Dragon Knights
TOKYOPOP
MANGA
Mineko Ohkami
8

Dragon Knights

Written and Illustrated by
Mineko Ohkami

Volume 8

TOKYOPOP®
Los Angeles • Tokyo • London

From the Chronicles of Dusis, the West Continent...

The Beginnings: Nadil and Lord Lykouleon

When the Yokai Nadil, the leader of the Demon Forces, kidnapped the Dragon Queen Raseleane, the Dragon Lord Lykouleon ventured to the Demon Realm to rescue her. He defeated Nadil by cutting off his head, but not before the demon leader rendered Raseleane barren, unable to give Lykouleon a child... and the Dragon Kingdom an heir. Now the Demon and Yokai Forces, under the command of Shydemon and Shyrendora, plot to attack Draqueen, the Dragon Kingdom, and retrieve their leader's head in the hopes of reviving him. But other shady characters such as Master Khart the Alchemist and the rogue Yokai Bierrez have also entered the contest for control of all Dusis. The Dragon Officers and Lord Lykouleon desperately try to ready the Dragon Palace to repel an assault by the Demon Forces.

The Dragon Knights: A Motley Trio

The Dragon Knights are three specially-chosen warriors granted the power of the various elemental dragons for the protection of the Dragon Realm. They have been dispatched on three separate missions. The human/demon Rath is the Dragon Knight of Fire and has gone out of his way to accompany the fortuneteller Cesia to Mt. Emphaza. However, his reluctance to be entirely forthcoming about his motives may be a point of concern. Thatz, a human thief, is the Dragon Knight of Earth and is currently engaged in a search for the mysterious Three Treasures. The Elfin prince Rune, the Dragon Knight of Water, has left the Dragon Palace to investigate reports that the Faerie Realm, his home, has been destroyed.

Rath and Cesia

Now partners, these two have always had a strained relationship, primarily because each doesn't trust the fact that the other is part demon. But they care about each other tremendously. When Cesia—prone to curses as she is—finds herself the victim of dark magic, it is Rath who helps her through each crisis. And when Rath becomes consumed with anger—as he is prone to do—it is Cesia that coaxes him back into calm. Now back on track, the two head for Mt. Emphaza to find a power that will revive the fallen Demon Dog Crewger, but they may be in for more than they realize.

Translator - Agnes Yoshida
English Adaption - Stephanie Sheh
Associate Editor - Tim Beedle
Retouch and Lettering - Ronnel Papa
Cover Layout - Anna Kernbaum

Senior Editor - Luis Reyes
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Manager - Jennifer Miller
Art Director - Matthew Alford
Editorial Director- Jeremy Ross
VP of Production & Manufacturing - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

A TOKYOPOP® Manga
TOKYOPOP® is an imprint of Mixx Entertainment, Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90036

© 1995 Mineko Ohkami. All rights reserved
First published in Japan in 1995 by Shinshokan Publishing Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.
English Publication rights arranged through Shinshokan Publishing Co., Ltd.

English text © 2003 by Mixx Entertainment, Inc.
TOKYOPOP is a registered trademark of Mixx Entertainment, Inc.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 1-59182-112-6

First TOKYOPOP® printing: June 2003

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Printed in the USA

The Cast of Dragon Knights

Royalty

The Dragon Knights and the Dragon Officers, under the command of Lord Lykouleon, are positioning themselves to face the Demon Forces in the defense of Dusis. But they will have to rely on the help of others to see them through. This is an overview of the Dragon Clan and their allies.

Lord Lykouleon

Raseleane

Dragon Officers

Kai-Stern

Blue Dragon Officer-Secretary of Foreign Affairs

White Dragon Officer-Chief Secretary Alfeesi

Ruwalk

Yellow Dragon Officer-Secretary of State

Black Dragon Officer-Secretary of Security Tetheus

Dragon Castle Administrator Cernozura

Drgon Knights

Illuser

Illuser was killed when Lord Lykouleon faced Nadil to save his Queen Raseleane.

Rath

Rath is very close to Kai-Stern and was to the late Demon Dog Crewger.

Thatz

Rune

A human with a love for Faeries. Nohiro

Crewger

Crewger was killed when Garfakey, a minion of Kharl the Alchemist, came to kidnap Cesia.

Delte

A human fortuneteller willing to help the Dragon Knights

Kitchel

Thatz's rival who is currently on a mission with him to retrieve the three treasures for the Dragon Lord.

Silk

Once possessed by a demon to fight Rune, she was killed trying to help him.

Tintlet

Once trapped in a demon water realm keeping the demon fish Varawoo from escaping, she is now free and must save the faeries.

Ringleys

Ringleys was rescued from a demon and now accompanies Thatz and Kitchel.

Faeries

Most of the faeries have been exter-minated by Kharl the Alchemist. A few remain but feel powerless to stop the massacre

Rath and Cesia are both part demon and so distrust each other, but they have learned to work together very well.

Cesia

A fortuneteller with the ability to enhance the power of those in close proximity to her, a power coveted by all sides of the power game in Dusis.

Gil

Humans

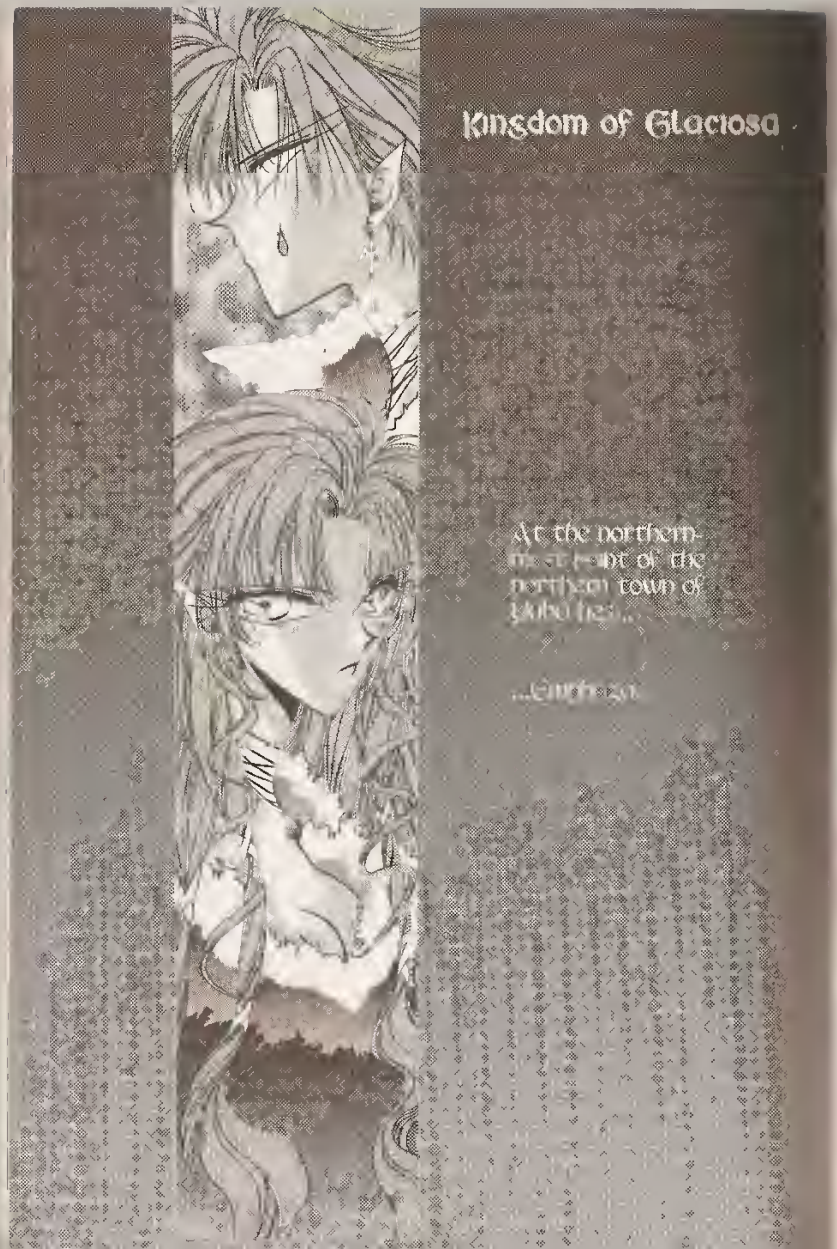
These three humans live in the mountains near Emphaza. Though Barl and Fiji are welcoming and kind-hearted, Gil distrusts travelers from foreign lands.

Barl

Fiji

Zoma

Cesia's friend who currently waits at the Dragon Castle for her to return from Mt. Emphaza.



The Villains of Dragon Knights

Nadil

Leader of the Demon Forces who was decapitated by Lykoulcon. His army is trying to retrieve his head and resurrect him.

Shydeman

Shyrendora

Current leaders of Nadil's army. They are fortunetellers with the express goal of reviving Nadil and destroying the Dragon Tribe.

Bierrez

The only Yokai who can penetrate the shield of the Dragon Castle. Though a demon, he isn't a loyal follower of Nadil.

Lady Medicinea

A demon leader in Nadil's army responsible for the Black Smoke in Dusis. Has a competative relationship

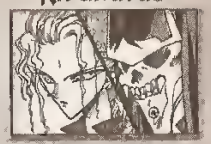
Jilge

A witch who worked for Nadil's forces until her untimely death at the hands of the Dragon Knights.

Fedelta

One of the leaders in Nadil's army. Answers to Shydeman and is competative with Medicinea

Kirukulus

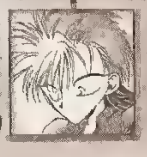


An evil sorcerer intent on capturing Cesia and using her to make him stronger. Was defeated by Rath but still lives and is determined to control Dusis.

Kharl

Kharl is an Alchemist and a Renkin Wizard who can create demons. He longs to control Dusis himself but sometimes assists Nadil's army.

Garfakey



Garfakey is sneaky, vicious and serves Kharl, but harbors a desire to be a demon himself.

DRAGON

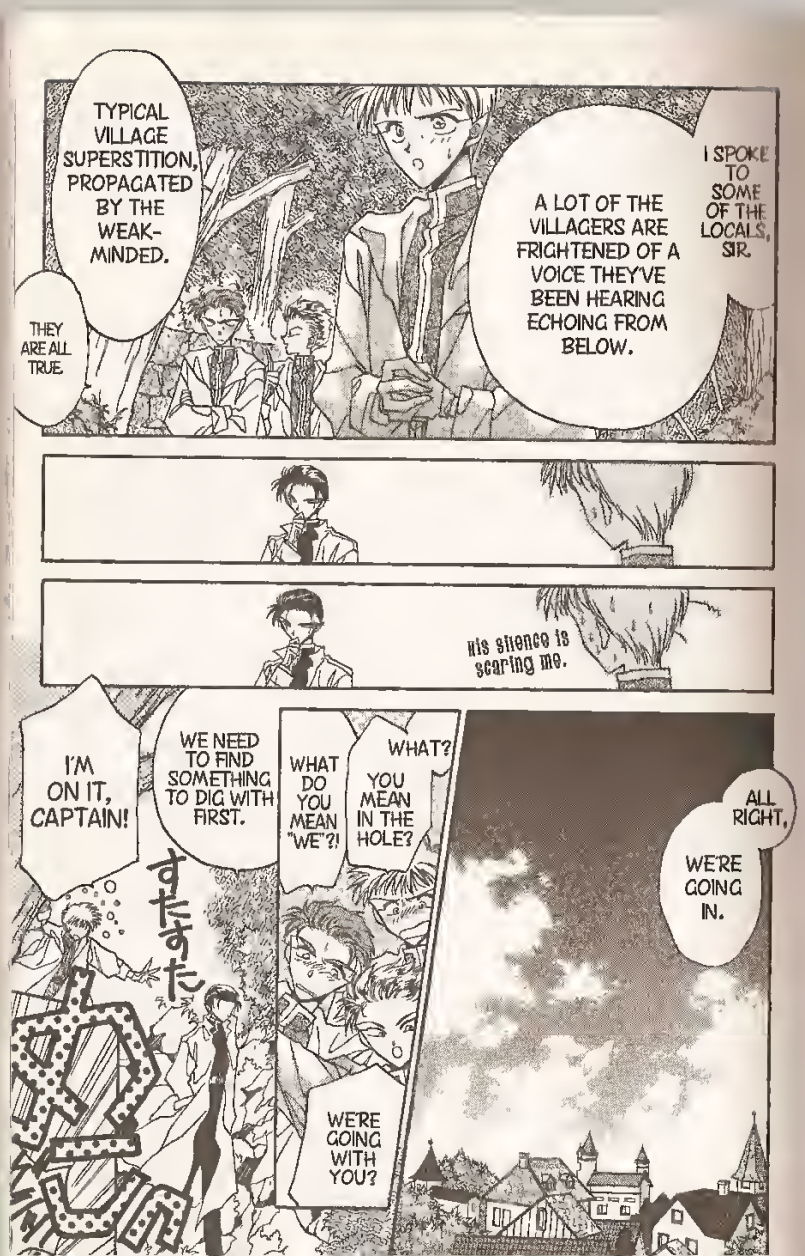
ドラゴン

KNIGHTS

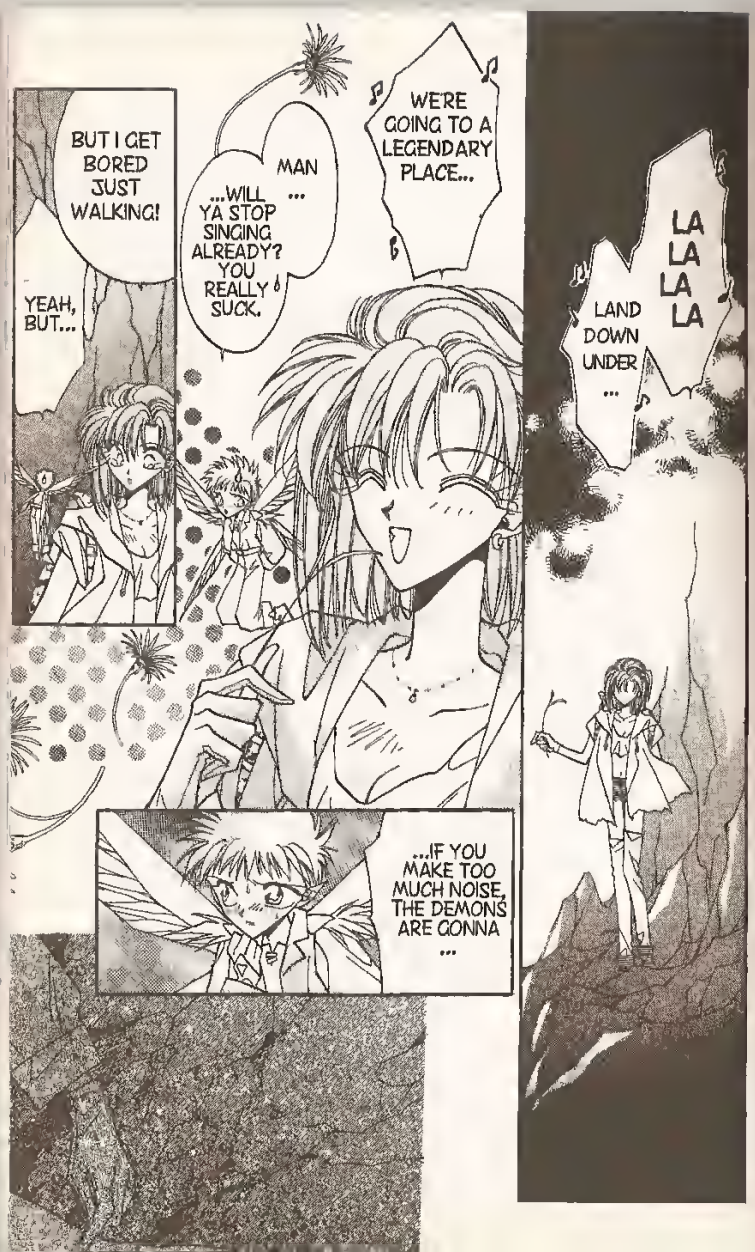
騎士団

風竜篇

WIND DRAGON


TYPICAL VILLAGE SUPERSTITION, PROPAGATED BY THE WEAK-MINDED.
THEY ARE ALL TRUE.
A LOT OF THE VILLAGERS ARE FRIGHTENED OF A VOICE THEY'VE BEEN HEARING ECHOING FROM BELOW.
I SPOKE TO SOME OF THE LOCALS, SIR.
His silence is scaring me.
I'M ON IT, CAPTAIN!
すたすた
WE NEED TO FIND SOMETHING TO DIG WITH FIRST.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE"?!
WHAT? YOU MEAN IN THE HOLE?
WE'RE GOING WITH YOU?
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE GOING IN.

YOU HEAR A WOMAN SINGING?
YES, SIR. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, FROM DEEP WITHIN THIS CREVICE.
YOU SURE 'BOUT THAT?
WITH ALL THIS WIND, HOW CAN YOU REALLY TELL?
I HEARD IT! I SWEAR IT'S TRUE!


BUT I GET BORED JUST WALKING!
YEAH, BUT...
MAN ...
...WILL YA STOP SINGING ALREADY? YOU REALLY SUCK.
WE'RE GOING TO A LEGENDARY PLACE...
LA LA LA LA
LAND DOWN UNDER ...
...IF YOU MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE, THE DEMONS ARE GONNA ...

UH...
AH!

"THE DEMON OF MT. EMPHAZA IS A FIERCE ONE-EYED GUARDIAN."
"WITH HIS SHARP CLAWS AND FANGS, HE KILLS ALL WHO VENTURE NEAR THE MOUNTAIN..."

I WONDER WHAT NADIL'S ARMY IS HIDING AT EMPHAZA...
... TO JUSTIFY ... SUCH A SPECTACLE.
IT'S A FARCE. I DOUBT THOSE FOOLS HAVE ANYTHING WORTH HIDING.
.....
WHAT HAPPENED?
HOW DID YOU GET THOSE INJURIES?
GAR-FAKCY?
IT WAS THE EARTH DRAGON KNIGHT.
THE EARTH DRAGON KNIGHT DID THAT?
MO--

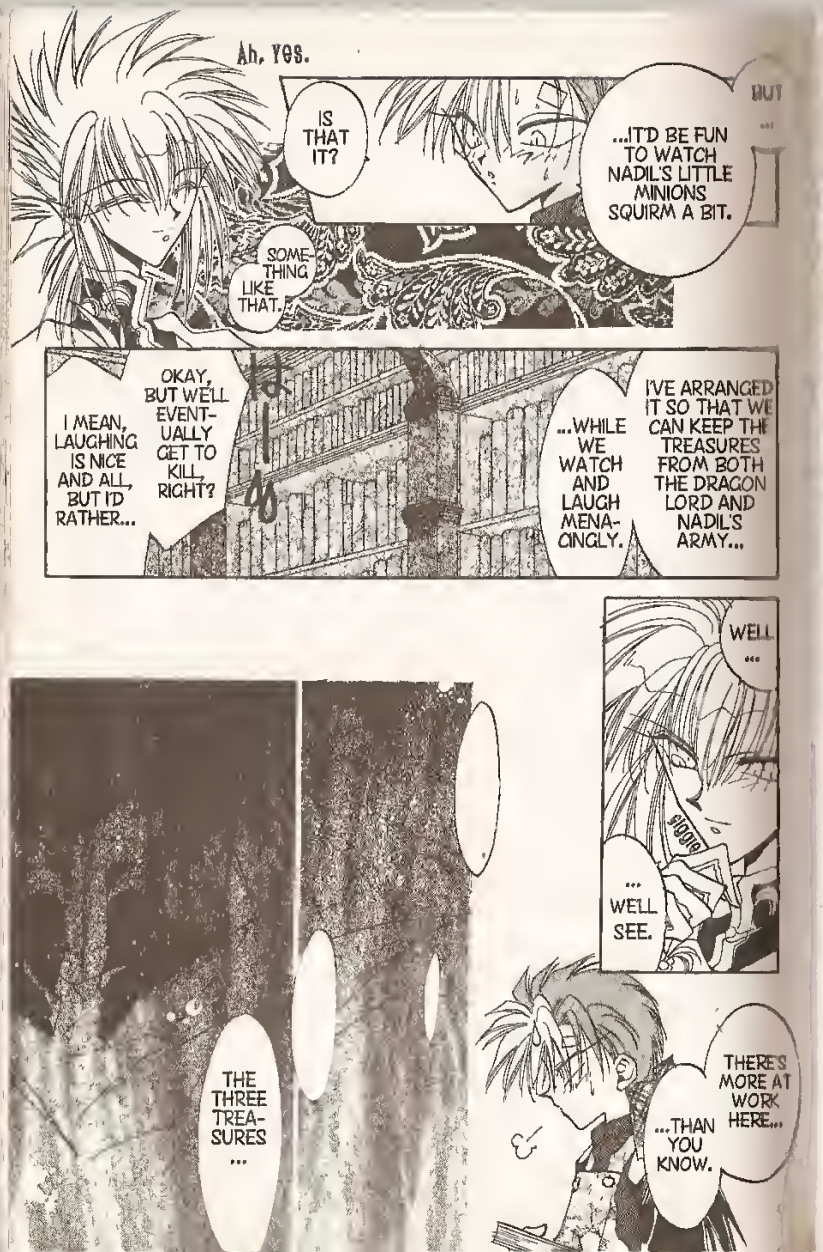
...IN ORDER TO PROTECT AN ITEM HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN EMPHAZA.
I SEE.
HMMM.
THE BEAST IS FARING WELL.
IT NEVER WAS VERY GOOD AT FOLLOWING ORDERS. THAT WAS A SLIGHT CONCERN.
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE REQUESTED NADIL'S ARMY PAY MORE FOR IT.
THAT DEMON IS MY FAVORITE CREATION.
Any more interesting articles?

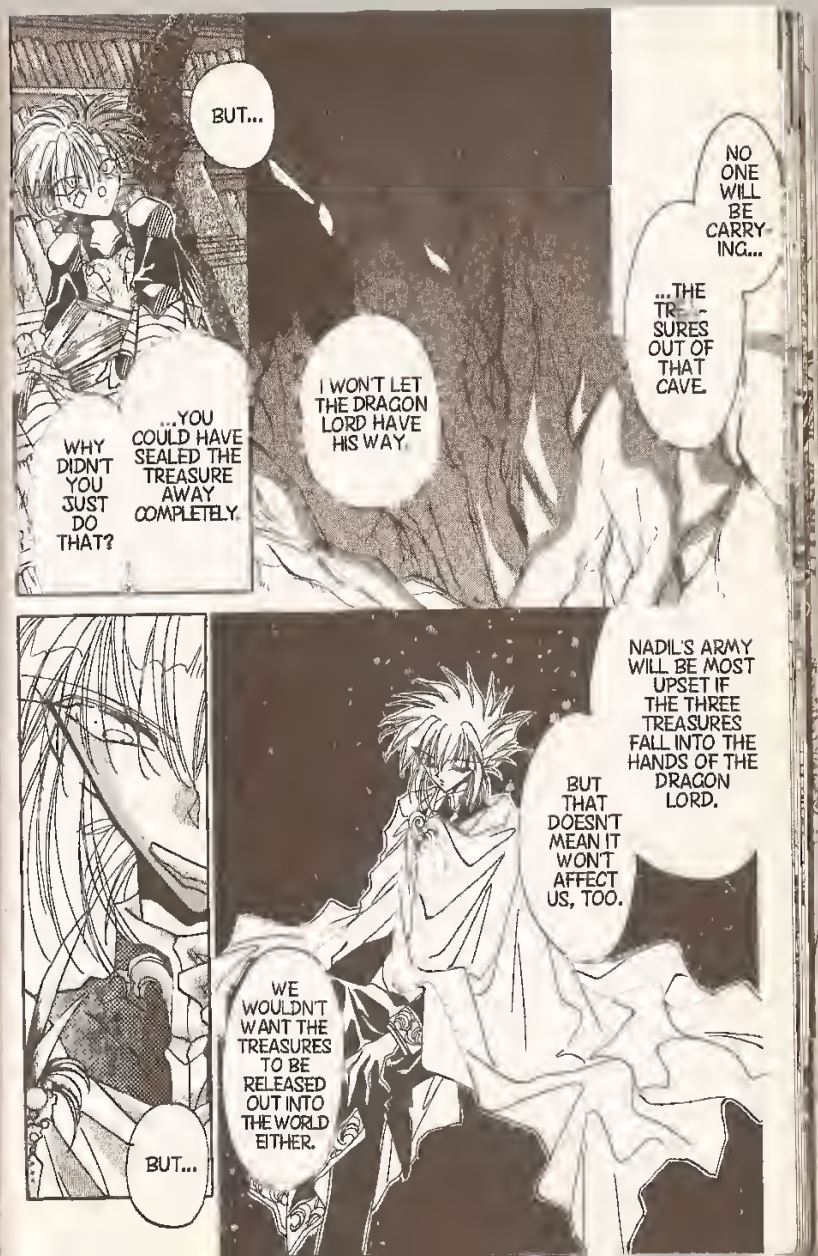
HERE.
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
ouch.
DID YOU HEAD FOR DUSIS?
THE EARTH DRAGON KNIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ON AN ISLAND IN ARINAS. WHY WAS HE IN DUSIS AT ALL?
!
HE CAME BACK.
OH, IT HURTS...
HMM...
THEN THE EARTH DRAGON KNIGHT MUST NOT HAVE ENTERED THE CAVE WITH THE THREE TREASURES.
IF HE HAD, THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED IT.
HUH?
OW!
THESE INJURIES ARE BAD.
YOU USED THE ASH ARMOR, RIGHT?
THE HUMAN BODY IS WEAK. IT BREAKS EASILY AND RECOVERS SLOWLY.
IT EVEN MAKES A LITTLE CRACKY SOUND WHEN IT BREAKS. TRUST ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. WEAR THE ARMOR.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST MAKE ME A DEMON?
WELL...
huh?
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
WHAT?
CLAWS WOULD BE NICE.
TRUST ME, THEY'RE OVER-RATED.
I CAN'T TURN YOU INTO A DEMON, CARFAKCY.
I'D BE GIVING UP MY MOST INTER-ESTING SPECIMEN!
Observing your human traits is so much fun!
SO, I'M A GUINEA PIG?
UH-HUH...
And tending your wounds never fails to make me smile.
Fun? Interesting?

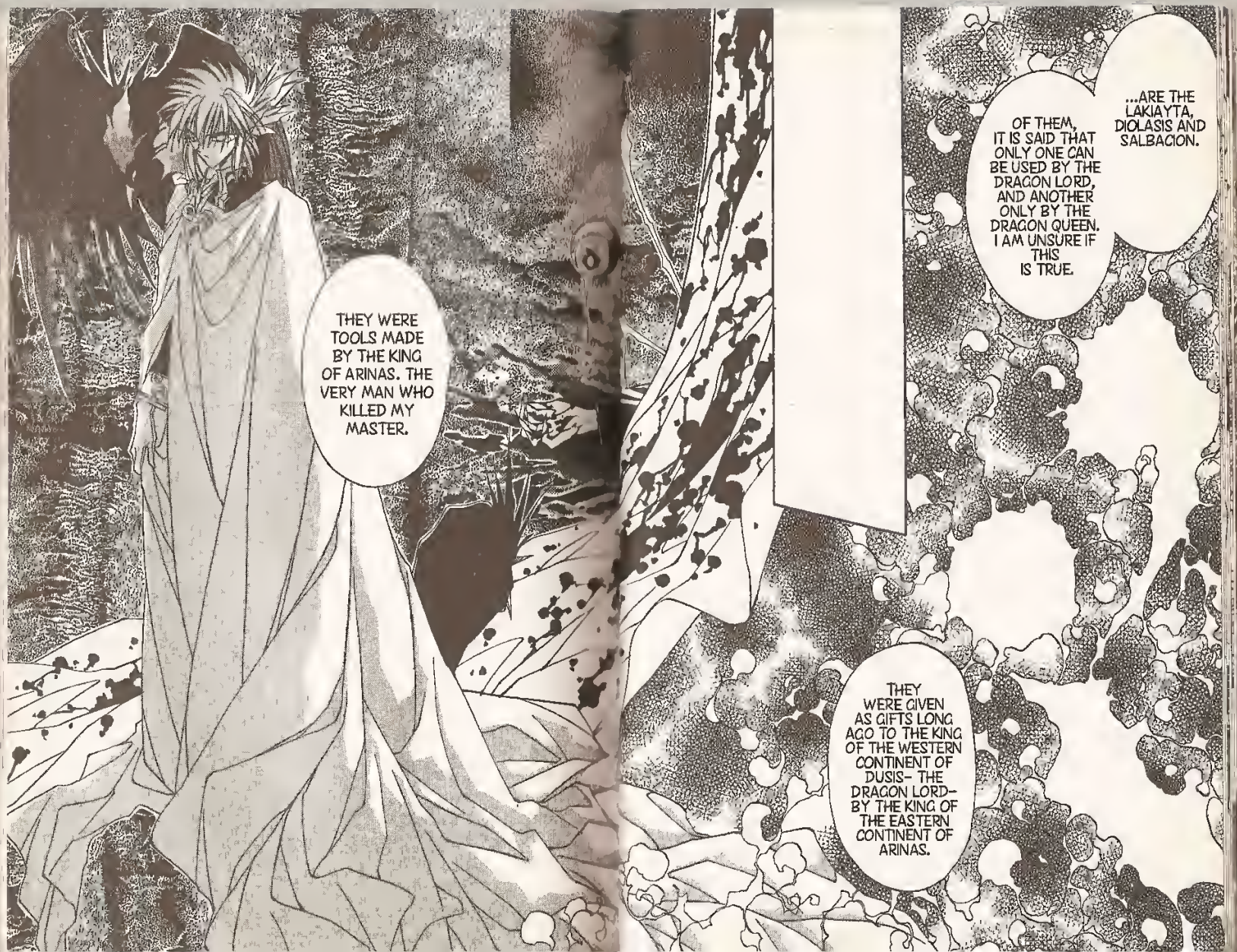
giggle
COME NOW. DON'T POUT.
I'M NOT POUTING.
I'M JUST BITTER THAT I LOST, THAT'S ALL.
HA HA...
HEY!
AND WHAT EXACTLY IS SO FUNNY?
OH... MY KIDNEY!
LET'S JUST SAY YOU KEEP ME...
...ENTERTAINED.
A FAERIE?
OH...
OH, ONE MORE THING... I MISSED A CHANCE TO CAPTURE A FAERIE.
NICE TO KNOW YOU FIND IT FUNNY.
MY PAIN.
UM..
GARFAKCY?
IVE ALREADY CREATED A REPLACEMENT FOR THE LEFT BIRD. I DONT NEED FAERIES ANYMORE.
I FORGOT TO INFORM YOU!
Wha? me?
That's a stone wall
UH... RIGHT.
hUPP hUPP
ALL THAT WORK ...
THEN I DON'T HAVE TO KILL ANY MORE FAERIES!
OH, DON'T FRET.
I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO KILLING HUMANS AFTER WE GOT RID OF THE FAERIES.
SHOOT.

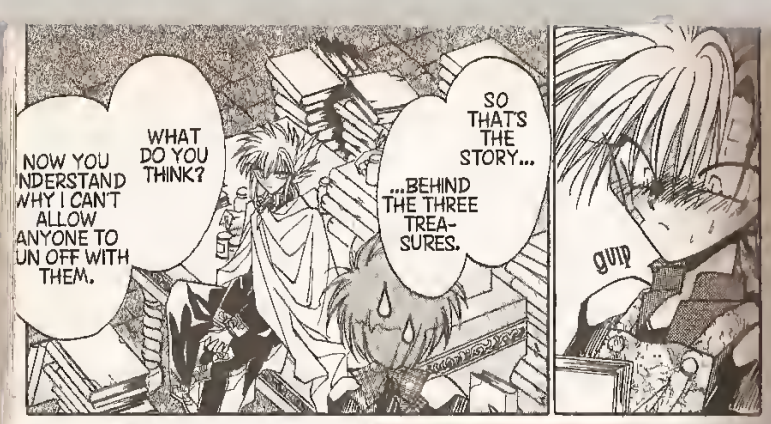
ARE YOU GOING TO DRINK THAT?
YOU KNOW, THAT'S...
...A SICKNESS ENHANCER.
ack ack
HM?
phew.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
Who put this cup here, anyway?
Great. Would be you, lord khark.
SO...
THAT CAVE.
LORD KHARL, DID YOU...?
YOU'RE QUICK, GARFAKCY.
I PLACED SPELLS ON THE ENTRANCE AND EXITS OF THE CAVE.
AND THEN I LET SOME DEMONS LOOSE INSIDE. JUST FOR KICKS.

I can't leave you alone for a second!!
You never put the books back!
...WE HAVE GOT TO CLEAN UP THIS ROOM!
WHO KNEW A FIRST AID BOX COULD GET SO MESSY?
This pisses me off.
BUT FIRST, LET ME TEND TO YOUR HAND.
CLAWS... YOU'RE SO SILLY!
unforgivable!
GREAT. BUT RIGHT NOW...
YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE SOON ENOUGH.
TRUST ME, THERE WILL BE CARNAGE GALORE.
...WHAT DID YOU...?
WHEN YOU SAID THAT ONE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE CAVE OF THE THREE TREASURES THAT EASILY...
BY THE WAY, LORD KHARL.


Ah, yes.
IS THAT IT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
BUT...
...IT'D BE FUN TO WATCH NADIL'S LITTLE MINIONS SQUIRM A BIT.
I MEAN, LAUGHING IS NICE AND ALL, BUT I'D RATHER...
OKAY, BUT WE'LL EVENTUALLY GET TO KILL, RIGHT?
...WHILE WE WATCH AND LAUGH MENACINGLY.
I'VE ARRANGED IT SO THAT WE CAN KEEP THE TREASURES FROM BOTH THE DRAGON LORD AND NADIL'S ARMY...
THE THREE TREASURES...
WELL...
BLOOD
...WE'LL SEE.
THERE'S MORE AT WORK HERE...
...THAN YOU KNOW.

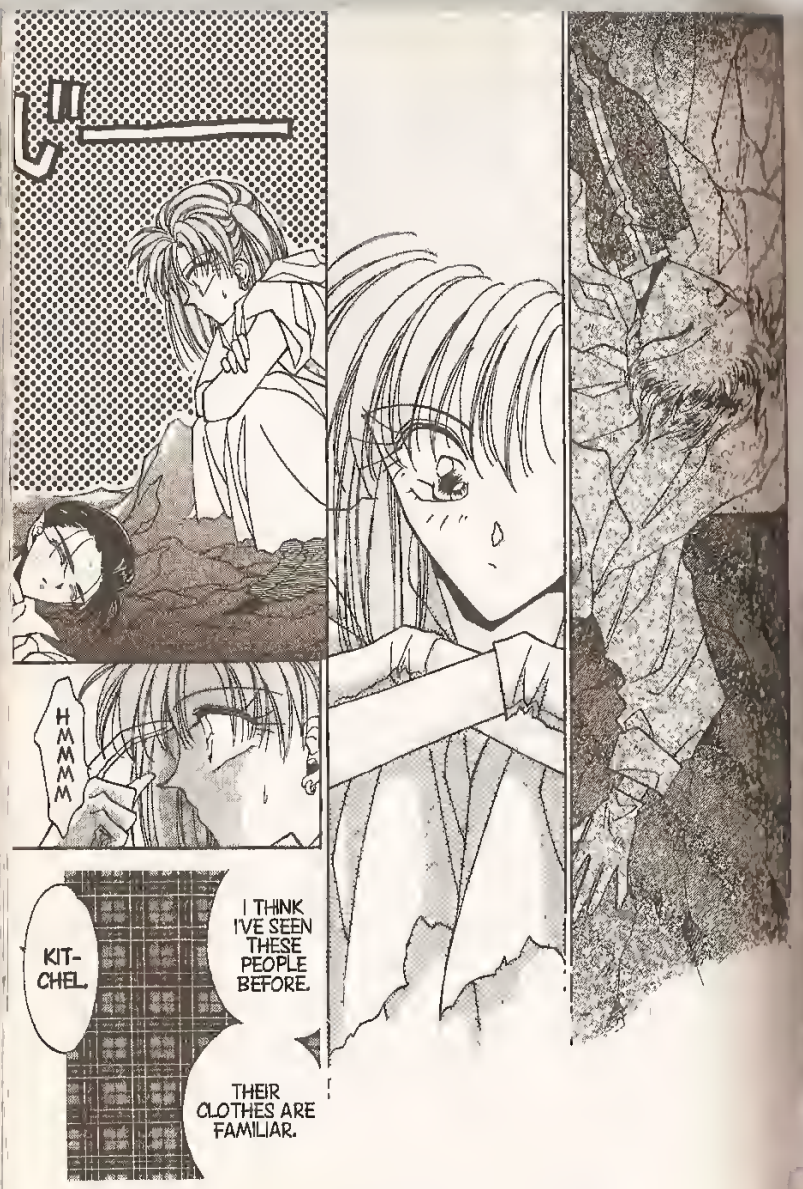

BUT...
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST DO THAT?
...YOU COULD HAVE SEALED THE TREASURE AWAY COMPLETELY.
I WON'T LET THE DRAGON LORD HAVE HIS WAY.
NO ONE WILL BE CARRYING...
...THE TREASURES OUT OF THAT CAVE.
BUT...
NADIL'S ARMY WILL BE MOST UPSET IF THE THREE TREASURES FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE DRAGON LORD.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT WON'T AFFECT US, TOO.
WE WOULDN'T WANT THE TREASURES TO BE RELEASED OUT INTO THE WORLD EITHER.


THEY WERE TOOLS MADE BY THE KING OF ARINAS. THE VERY MAN WHO KILLED MY MASTER.
THEY WERE GIVEN AS GIFTS LONG AGO TO THE KING OF THE WESTERN CONTINENT OF DUSIS- THE DRAGON LORD- BY THE KING OF THE EASTERN CONTINENT OF ARINAS.
OF THEM, IT IS SAID THAT ONLY ONE CAN BE USED BY THE DRAGON LORD, AND ANOTHER ONLY BY THE DRAGON QUEEN. I AM UNSURE IF THIS IS TRUE.
...ARE THE LAKIAYTA, DIOLASIS AND SALBACION.


NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I CAN'T ALLOW ANYONE TO UN OFF WITH THEM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SO THAT'S THE STORY...
...BEHIND THE THREE TREA-SURES.
gulp

I'LL KILL HIM.
THE LOUSY BASTARD IS DUE FOR AN ASS-KICKING.
WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TEMPORARILY REDUCE THE DRAGON LORD'S MANPOWER.
GAR-FAKCY.
IF THE EARTH DRAGON KNIGHT HAD GONE IN, THINGS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN INTERESTING.
BUT ALAS, HE DIDN'T GO IN.
BUT THERE ARE DEMONS IN THE CAVE.
ONCE INSIDE THE CAVE, ONE CAN ONLY LEAVE BY PASSING THROUGH THE SPECIAL GATE THAT I HAVE PREPARED.

And the King of Dusis...!!
THE KING OF ARINAS.
I CANNOT FORGIVE HIM.
THE KING OF ARINAS...
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM BACK THEN.
NOW I WILL KILL HIM A THOUSAND TIMES OVER.


HMMM
I THINK I'VE SEEN THESE PEOPLE BEFORE.
KIT-CHEL.
THEIR CLOTHES ARE FAMILIAR.

LIKE CLEANING UP THE MESS YOU MADE WHILE SEARCHING FOR THE FIRST AID BOX?
REALLY?
NOT YET. THERE ARE THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST.
AND ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A SLOB!
OH REALLY, A CONDITION?
sigh I HAVE A CONDITION. IT MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO FIND CERTAIN THINGS.
IT MATTERS NOT.
SHALL WE NAME IT?
THE BEAST?
NOW, USING THE POWER OF THE LEFT BIRD, WE WILL RESURRECT MY MASTER.

THAT GUY!
DO YOU THINK HE GOT WASHED AWAY?
LOTS OF WATER!
NO KIDDING. I TOLD YOU.
WOW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
THIS WATER... IT WON'T FILL THE ENTIRE CAVE ...
...WILL IT?
I DON'T KNOW.
FLAP FLAP
!!

OH!
THANK YOU.
KITCHEL, I BROUGHT YOU SOME WATER.
plap plap
ummm...
WHERE DO I KNOW THEM FROM?
READY, SET...
IF YOU BREAK IT, THERELL BE A LOT OF WATER.
THAT LOOKS A LOT LIKE A FAERIE WATER BALL.
カッ!!
UH, KITCHEL...

WATER?
.....
HUH?
!!!
THAT SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!
I THOUGHT HE WAS A DEMON.
He appeared out of nowhere.
...A GIRL?

CAP
TAIN
THAT WAS WEIRD.
ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE WAS ALL THIS WATER.
OH!
WHO'S THE GIRL?
HUH?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN?
I REMEMBER!! I SAW THOSE UNIFORMS WHEN I WAS IN DRAGOON!!
OH... YEAH!
OH.
OH.
HUH?
UMMM...

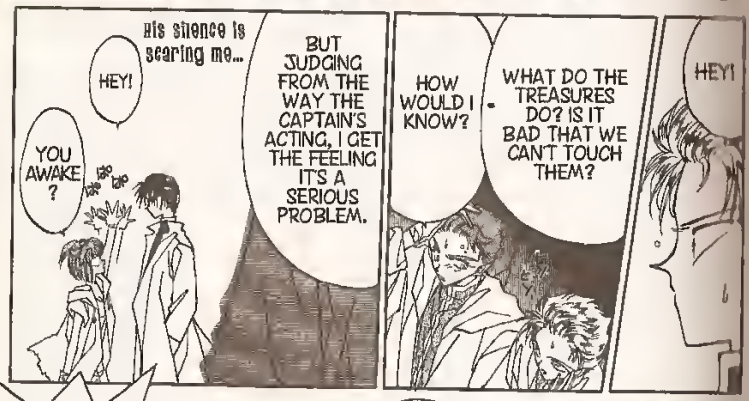
WHAT IS THAT GIRL DOING HERE?
I KNOW THIS GUY.

That's was with me for a while.
HUNTING FOR THE THREE TREASURES.
GIVEN TO YOU BY LORD LYKOU-LEON?
Miss
ぽた
……ぇ?
That're the real deal.
WANNA SEE?
WANNA?
ひぼ—
ひぼ
ひぼ
TH...
TH...
TH...
TH...
THE THREE TREASURES ?!
HERE'S ONE.
THEN I HAD TO PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER.
IT WAS PRETTY HARD, FINDING ALL OF THE PIECES TO THE MAP.
I saw you at the dragon castle, too!
YOU'RE FROM THE DRAGON CASTLE!
THAT MEANS YOU'RE PART OF THE DRAGON TRIBE!
へなへな
……
SO, WHATCHA GUYS DOING HERE?!
THE NAME'S KITCHEL. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM, IN DOWNTOWN DRAGOON.
I JUST COMPLETED A MISSION FOR HIS HIGHNESS AND NOW I'M HEADING BACK.
That's what we'd like to know.
YOU'RE FROM DRAGOON ?

TRY TAKING THIS FROM ME.
I'LL PROVE IT TO YA.
A REA-SON?
H-HIS HAND PASSED THROUGH IT!!
!!
TRUST ME, YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO SEE THIS.
GO AHEAD DO IT.

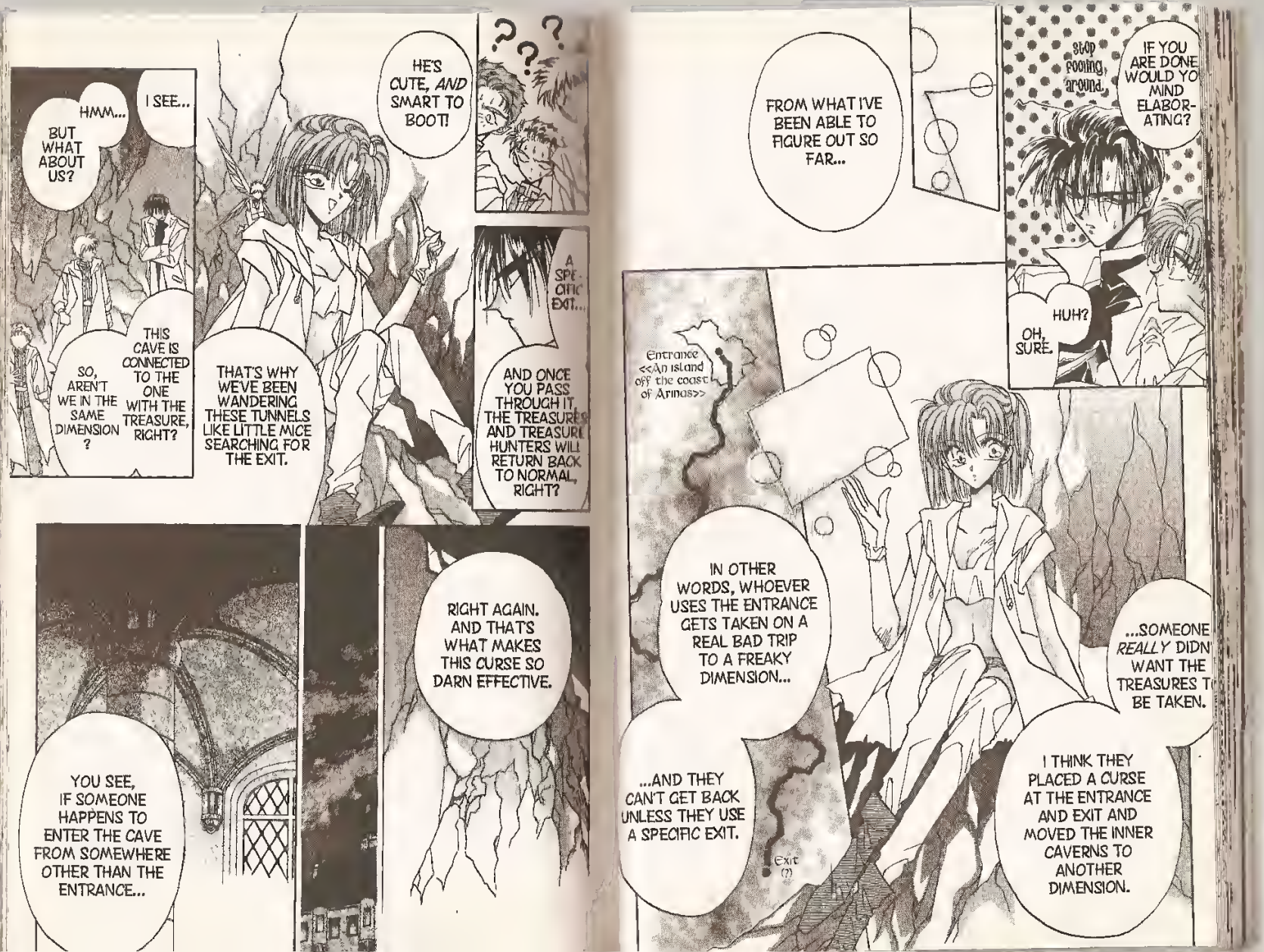
IT LOOKS LIKE THE DRAGON EYES, BUT IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
IT'S LIKE A CRYSTAL BALL.
THE HOLY DRAGON EYE, DIOLASIS!!
THIS IS...
I'D LOVE TO GET OUTTA HERE, BELIEVE ME.
T THERE'S REASON WHY I'M CK HERE.
NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND THE TREA-SURES...
...YOU MUST HURRY AND TAKE THEM TO HIS HIGHNESS
CAP-TAIN.
WHY ARE YOU STILL HANGING AROUND HERE?

A DIFFERENT PLACE?
BUT HOW IS THAT...


His silence is searing me...
HEY!
YOU AWAKE?
BUT JUDGING FROM THE WAY THE CAPTAIN'S ACTING, I GET THE FEELING IT'S A SERIOUS PROBLEM.
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
WHAT DO THE TREASURES DO? IS IT BAD THAT WE CAN'T TOUCH THEM?
HEY!

HEY NOW!!! CUT THAT OUT!!!
yay yay
THIS IS FUN!
FOUR ARMS!
TWO HEADS!
I wouldn't do that if I was you.
なかよか
ずるっ

YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME OR RINGLEYS EITHER.
!?
I can't touch the treasure—!?
SEE? YOU PASS THROUGH US, TOO.
...BUT WE'RE NOT. NOT REALLY.
WE'RE ACTUALLY IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLACE SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN WHERE YOU CURRENTLY STAND.
GET IT NOW?
WE LOOK LIKE WE ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU WITH THE TREASURES...
SHE'S RIGHT. AND YOU CAN SEE THROUGH HER BODY...


FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT SO FAR...
stop fooling around.
IF YOU ARE DONE WOULD YO MIND ELABOR-ATING?
HUH?
OH, SURE.
Entrance <<An island off the coast of Arinas>>
IN OTHER WORDS, WHOEVER USES THE ENTRANCE GETS TAKEN ON A REAL BAD TRIP TO A FREAKY DIMENSION...
...AND THEY CAN'T GET BACK UNLESS THEY USE A SPECIFIC EXIT.
Exit (?)
I THINK THEY PLACED A CURSE AT THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT AND MOVED THE INNER CAVERNS TO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
...SOMEONE REALLY DIDN WANT THE TREASURES T BE TAKEN.
HE'S CUTE, AND SMART TO BOOT!
A SPE-CIFIC EXIT...
AND ONCE YOU PASS THROUGH IT, THE TREASURE AND TREASURE HUNTERS WILL RETURN BACK TO NORMAL, RIGHT?
I SEE...
HMM...
BUT WHAT ABOUT US?
SO, AREN'T WE IN THE SAME DIMENSION ?
THIS CAVE IS CONNECTED TO THE ONE WITH THE TREASURE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN WANDERING THESE TUNNELS LIKE LITTLE MICE SEARCHING FOR THE EXIT.
YOU SEE, IF SOMEONE HAPPENS TO ENTER THE CAVE FROM SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN THE ENTRANCE...
RIGHT AGAIN. AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES THIS CURSE SO DARN EFFECTIVE.

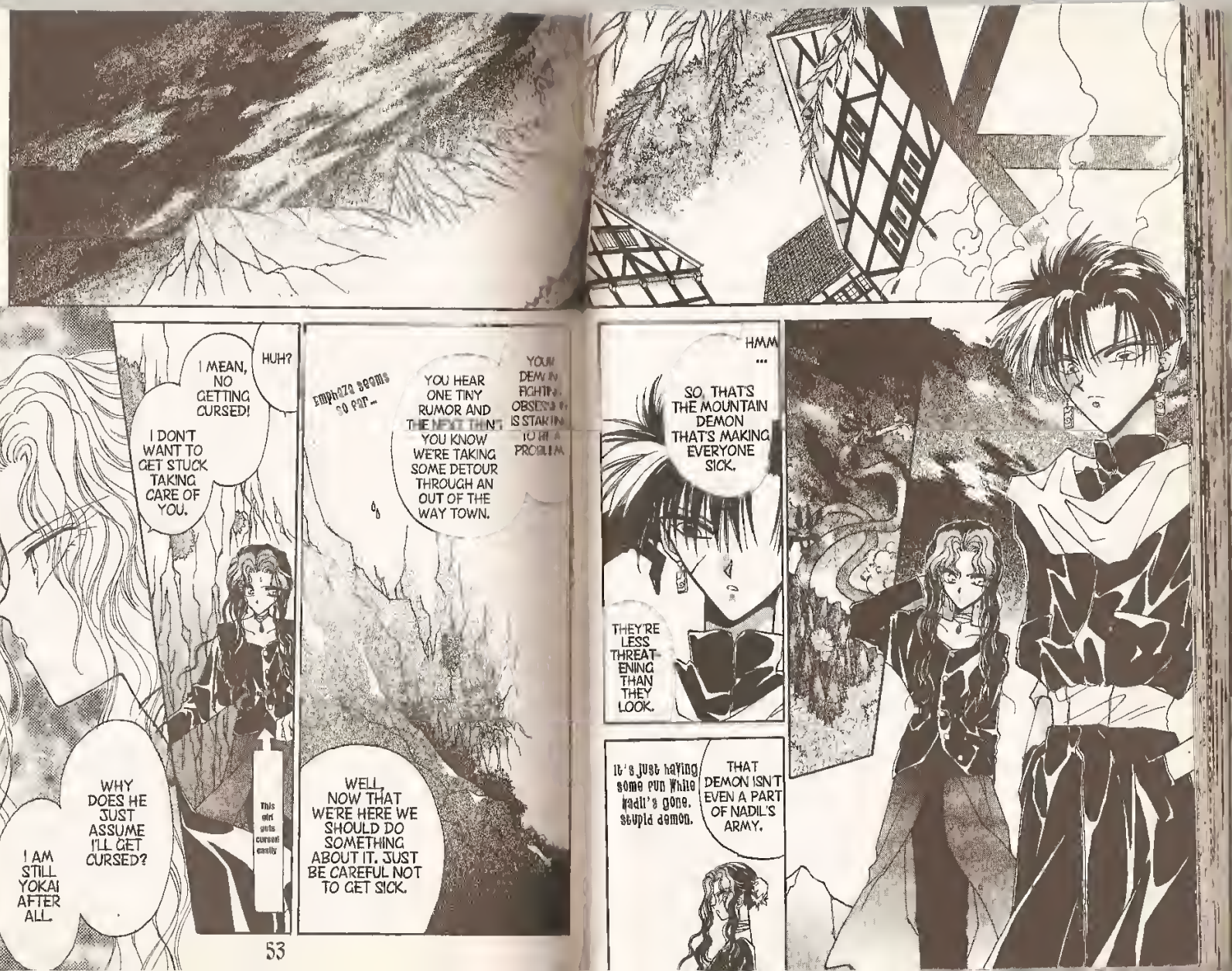
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE EXIT IS?
YOU'RE LEARNING, CARFAKCY.
RIGHT
BUT YOU SAID YOU LET DEMONS LOOSE INSIDE THE CAVE.
SO EVEN IF THEY MAKE IT, THEY'RE SCREWED.
Hm Hm
IT'S A HIKE, BUT I THINK WE'LL MAKE IT.
TIME MOVES SLOWER HERE THAN IT DOES BACK HOME, SO RINGLEYS AND I DON'T NEED MUCH FOOD OR SLEEP.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND IT WITH THE MAP.
IF WE KEEP GOING THIS WAY, WE'LL GET TO THE EXIT EVENTUALLY.
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS...
DEMONS?
.....
K-
KITCHEL
sigh
SO TELL HIS HIGHNESS TO SIT TIGHT, 'KAY?
If she keeps wasting time, she might not make it.
YOU WANT THE TREASURES, YOU HAVE TO FIND THE ENTRANCE AND THE EXIT.
THE ENTRANCE IS AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN IN ARINAS.
...AND BY SOME CHANCE WAS TO MIRACULOUSLY FIND THE TREASURES...
...IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE THEM.
THE TREASURES ARE IN THIS OTHER DIMENSION. ALL YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO IS WINDOW SHOP.
AND THE EXIT?
WHERE IS THE EXIT?
giggle
FAR, FAR AWAY.
AND TIME IN THE OTHER DIMENSION FLOWS MORE SLOWLY. ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT... IN THEORY.

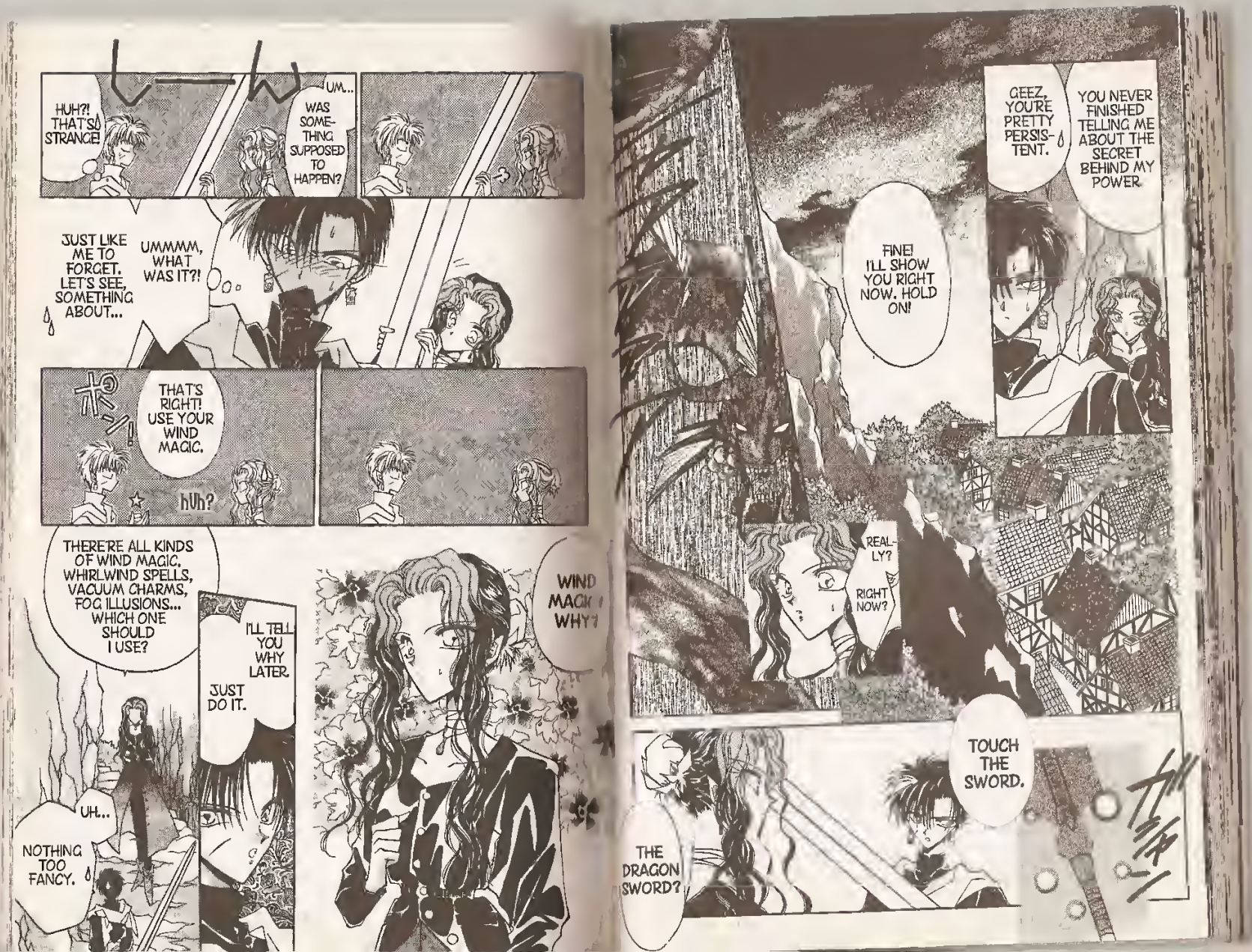
IT'S THE DEMON WITH THE ELECTRIC SHOCKER!
K-
KITCHEL!
WHAT? THAT'S JUST GREAT!
MY DAY COULDN'T GET ANY BETTER.
OH...
HUH?
GET BACK!!
THAT WALL LOOKS LIKE IT'S COMING DOWN.
KIT-CHEL'S RIGHT.
YOU IDIOT!
YOU WANNA BE ELECTRO-CUTED?
TRUST HER. SHE LEARNED IT THE HARD WAY!
NO WORRIES, I'LL JUST STAB HIM WITH MY SWORD—
OW!

WE GOTTA HIDE!
OH! NO!
W-
WHAT DO WE DO?!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I PUT MY SWORD!
A DEMON!
A NASTY DEMON!
A BIG NASTY DEMON'S COMING!!
GULP

NOW THAT'S EXTREME WREST-LING!
WOW! GO GET 'EM!
BARE HANDS ?!
NO! YOU CAN'T FIGHT IT WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!

THEN HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DEFEAT IT? WE ONLY *HAVE* SWORDS.
I WONDER IF THE DEMON IS PHYSICALLY MANIFESTED IN OUR REALITY AS WELL.
YOU MEAN, CAN HE EXIST IN BOTH DIMENSIONS?
ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT FOR IT TO PASS BY.
I THINK SO.
I'M GUESSING THAT ONLY HUMANS AND THE TREASURES EXIST ON SEPARATE PLANES.
EVERYTHING ELSE HAS A DUAL EXISTENCE. I MEAN, LOOK, WE'RE STANDING IN THE SAME CAVE. AND WE CAN BOTH HOLD ONTO THE SAME ROCK.
C-
CAP-TAIN?!
SO I JUST CAN'T USE MY SWORD ...
ポキ

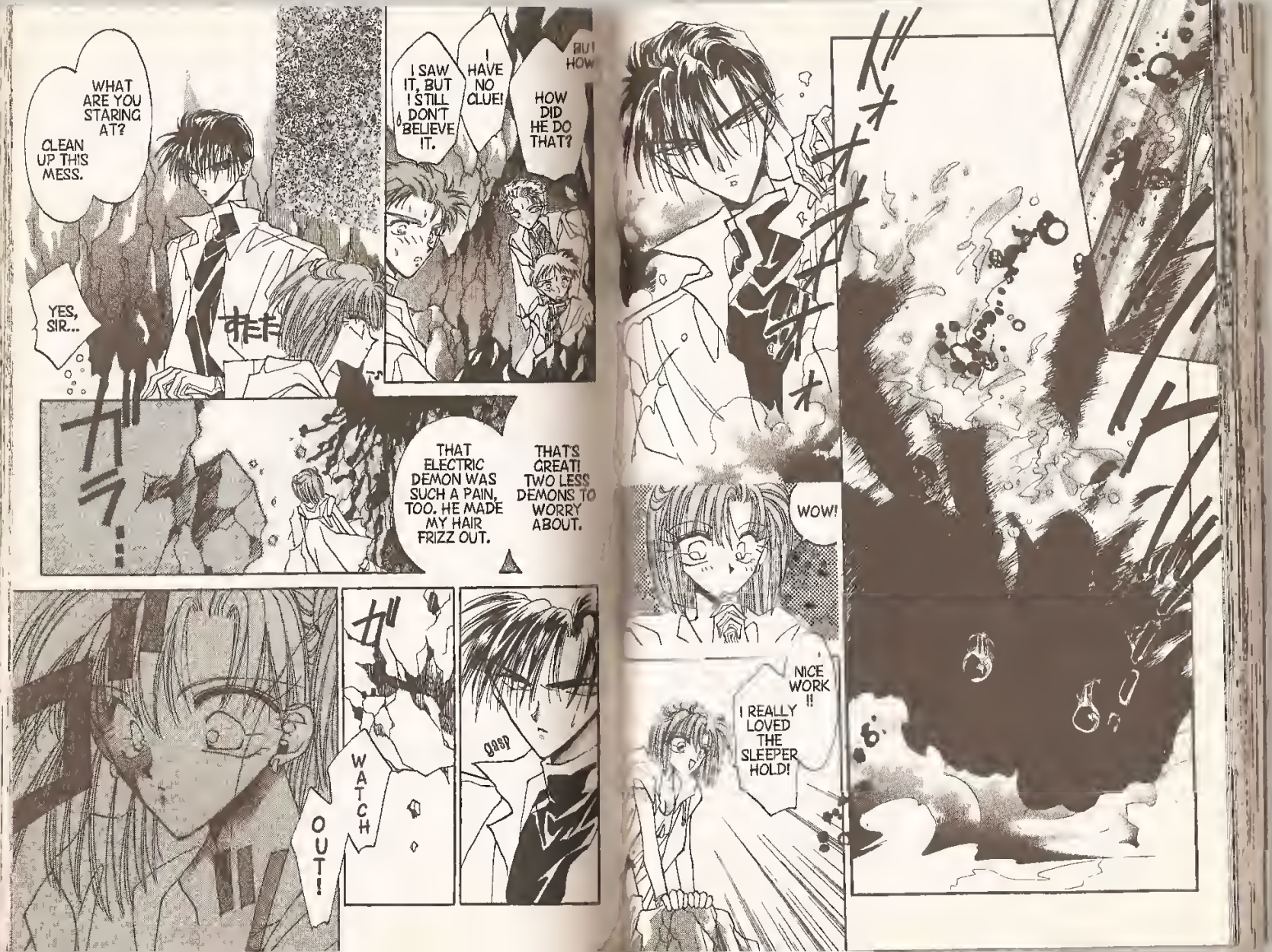

HUH?
I MEAN, NO GETTING CURSED!
I DON'T WANT TO GET STUCK TAKING CARE OF YOU.
This girl gets cursed easily
WHY DOES HE JUST ASSUME I'LL GET CURSED?
I AM STILL YOKAI AFTER ALL.
Emphoza seems so far...
YOU HEAR ONE TINY RUMOR AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW WE'RE TAKING SOME DETOUR THROUGH AN OUT OF THE WAY TOWN.
YOUR DEMON FIGHTING OBSESSION IS STARTING TO BE A PROBLEM.
WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE HERE WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET SICK.
HMM ...
SO, THAT'S THE MOUNTAIN DEMON THAT'S MAKING EVERYONE SICK.
THEY'RE LESS THREATENING THAN THEY LOOK.
It's just having some fun while Nadil's gone. Stupid demon.
THAT DEMON ISN'T EVEN A PART OF NADIL'S ARMY.

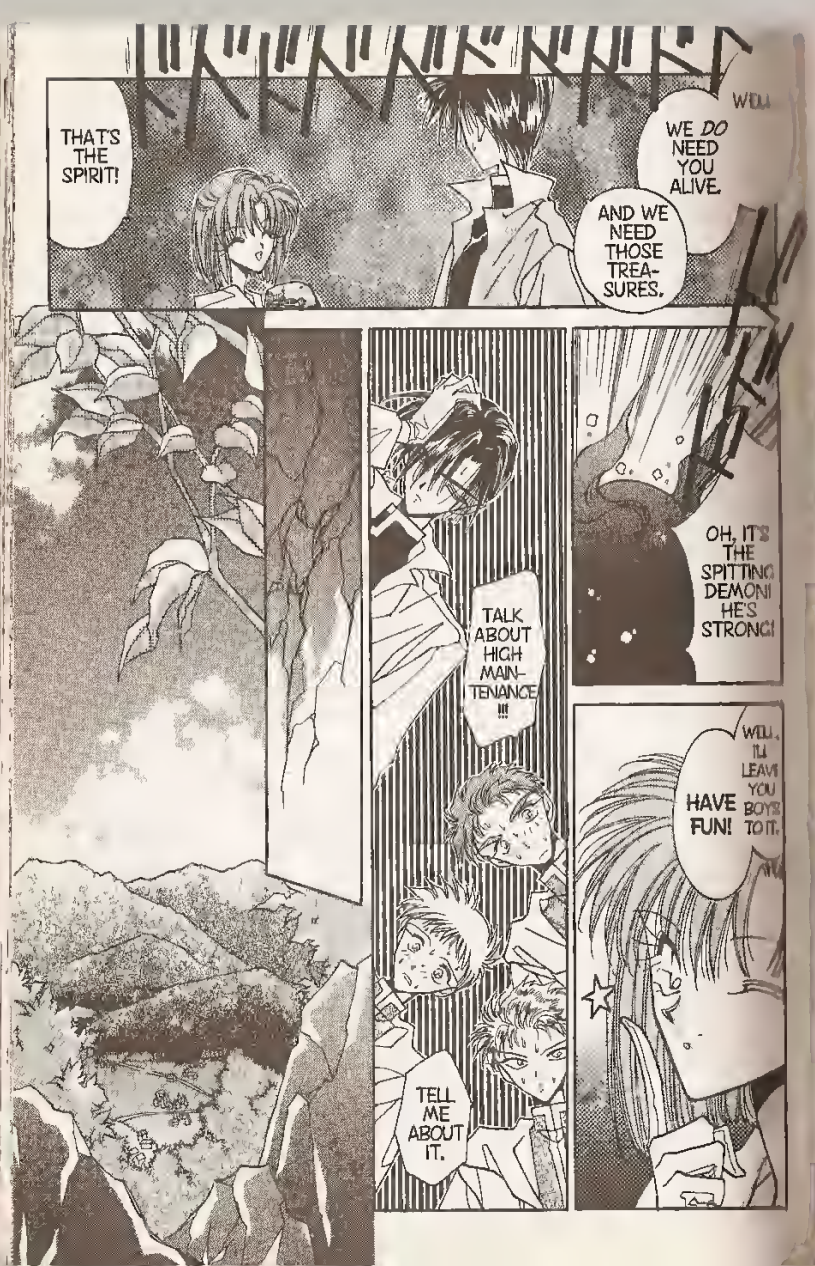

HUH?! THAT'S STRANGE!
UM... WAS SOMETHING SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?
JUST LIKE ME TO FORGET. LET'S SEE, SOMETHING ABOUT...
UMMMM, WHAT WAS IT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! USE YOUR WIND MAGIC.
hUh?
THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF WIND MAGIC. WHIRLWIND SPELLS, VACUUM CHARMS, FOG ILLUSIONS... WHICH ONE SHOULD I USE?
I'LL TELL YOU WHY LATER. JUST DO IT.
UH... NOTHING TOO FANCY.
WIND MAGIC? WHY?
GEEZ, YOU'RE PRETTY PERSISTENT.
YOU NEVER FINISHED TELLING ME ABOUT THE SECRET BEHIND MY POWER.
FINE! I'LL SHOW YOU RIGHT NOW. HOLD ON!
REALLY? RIGHT NOW?
TOUCH THE SWORD.
THE DRAGON SWORD?

YOU'VE EVEN CAST A FOG ILLUSION! ARE YOU NUTS?!
BUT SMALL SPELLS ARE HARD. I DON'T LIKE THEM!
...NOT STAN A DAMN HURRICANE
LOOK!
SHOULDN'T IT BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND?!
NOW YOUR FOG ILLUSION IS MORPHING INTO A VACUUM SPELL!!
WELL, I HOPE YOU DIDN'T DO THIS DELIBERATELY!
NO. THAT'S SILLY.
IT'S NOT THAT.
HA HA...
YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR OWN MAGIC!
CAN YOU?!
CESIA...
By exposing the Dragon Sword to her power, there should have been some reaction...!
I'LL USE REGULAR WHIRLWIND MAGIC THEN.
WIND.
He said that Cesia empowers things just by being there!
And that the power manifests itself as Wind magic.
WHAT?
AN EARTHQUAKE?
I TOLD YOU TO USE A REGULAR STRENGTH SPELL...
WHAT?!
YEAH?!
CESIA...

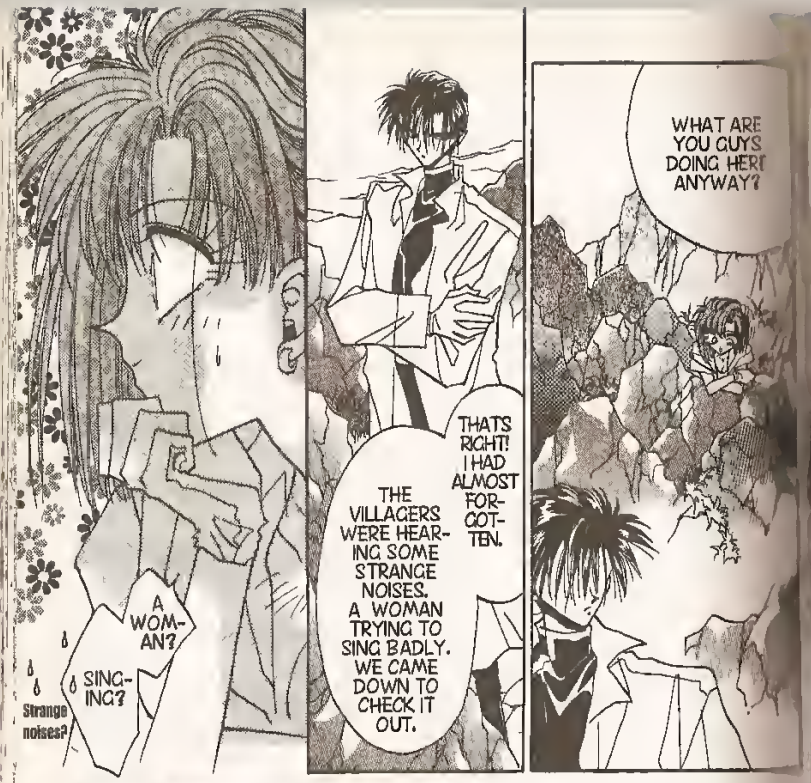
YOU THINK YOU CAN?
I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT.
AND WHAT ABOUT WHEN I GET IT UNDER CONTROL?
IF YOU CAN'T USE YOUR MAGIC EFFECTIVELY, THE DEAL'S OFF.
IT WASN'T MY FAULT...
WIND STAFF?
I JUST NEED THE WIND STAFF.
I KNOW I CAN

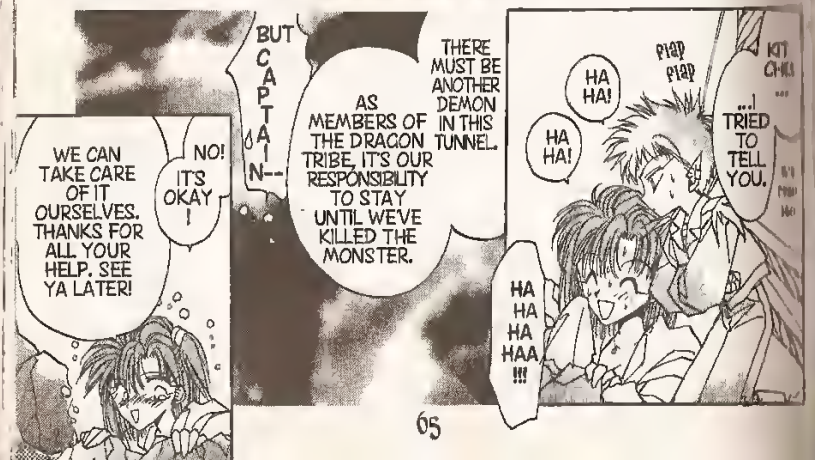
パァアッ
THE SKY...
IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW.
YOU REALLY WENT CRAZY THERE WITH YOUR SPELL.
LOOK, YOU EVEN TOOK OUT THE MOUNTAIN DEMON!
YOU NEED TO LEARN CONTROL !!!
pbs
KILLING THAT DEMON WAS THE ONE THING I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO!
...I'M SORRY...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
WHOOPS... YOU'RE MAD AT ME, AREN'T YOU?


WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
CLEAN UP THIS MESS.
YES, SIR...
I SAW IT, BUT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I HAVE NO CLUE!
BU! HOW
HOW DID HE DO THAT?
THAT ELECTRIC DEMON WAS SUCH A PAIN, TOO. HE MADE MY HAIR FRIZZ OUT.
THATS GREAT! TWO LESS DEMONS TO WORRY ABOUT.
WATCH OUT!
gasp
WOW!
NICE WORK !!
I REALLY LOVED THE SLEEPER HOLD!


THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
WELL...
WE DO NEED YOU ALIVE.
AND WE NEED THOSE TREA-SURES.
OH, IT'S THE SPITTING DEMON! HE'S STRONG!
TALK ABOUT HIGH MAIN-TENANCE!!!
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
WELL, I'LL LEAVE YOU BOYS TO IT.
HAVE FUN!

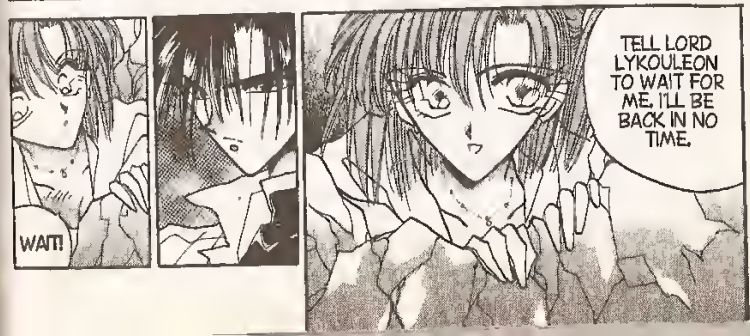
OOH... MY BAD. I'M SORRY!
YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION TO DELIVER THOSE TREA-SURES SAFELY TO THE LORD.
AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH TO DEFEAT THOSE DEMONS, I'D HATE TO SEE YOU DIE IN A ROCKSLIDE.
DOESN'T IT HURT?
I WANNA SEE ANOTHER POWER BOMB!
YOU'RE SCARING ME, KITCHEL.
HUH? ANOTHER DEMON?
NICE TIMING!
YOU GUYS AREN'T BUSY OR ANYTHING, ARE YOU?
HEY, WHILE YOU'RE HERE, YA THINK YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF THE REST OF THE DEMONS FOR US?

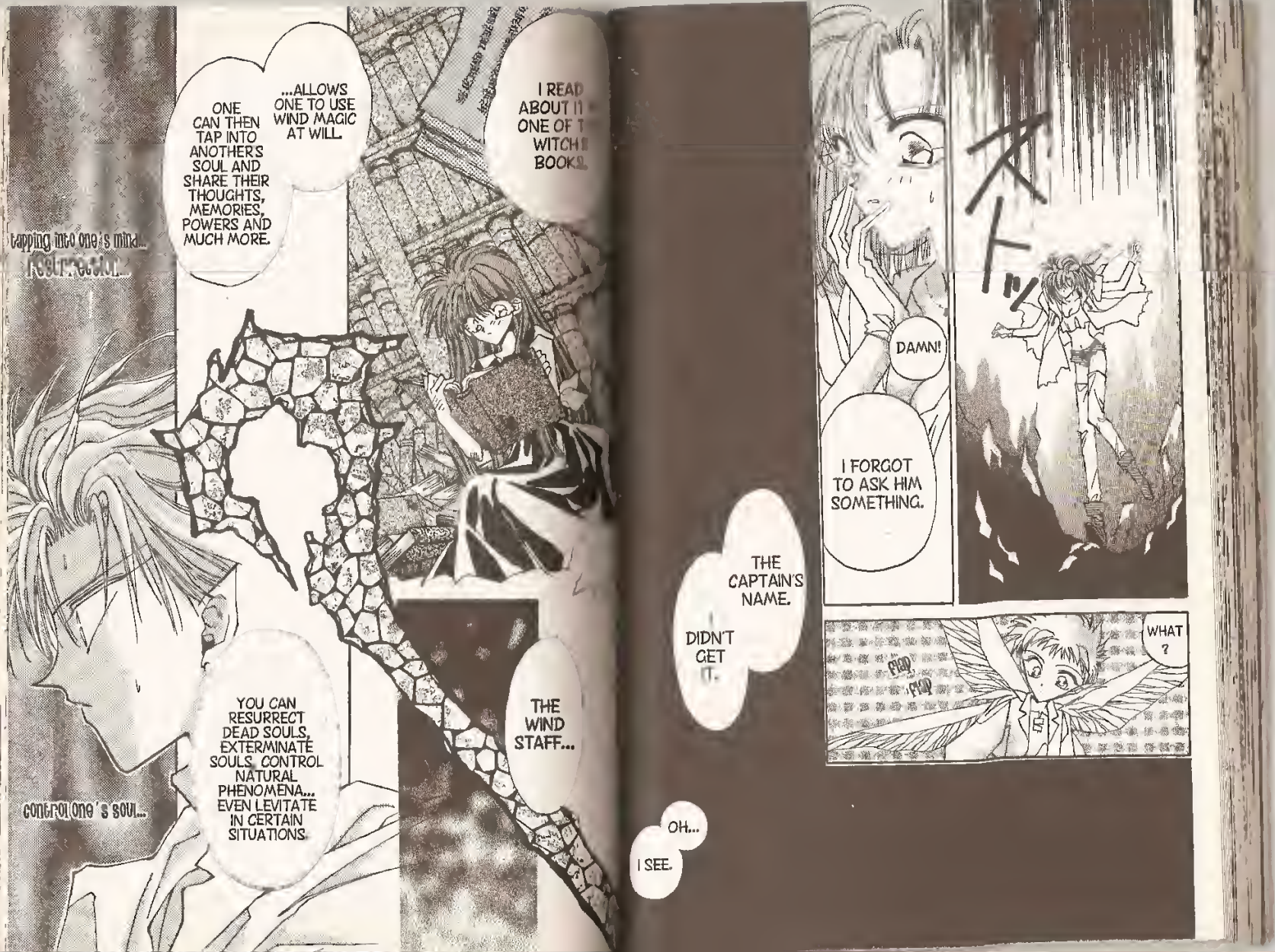

Strange noises?
SING-ING?
A WOM-AN?
THE VILLAGERS WERE HEAR-ING SOME STRANGE NOISES. A WOMAN TRYING TO SING BADLY. WE CAME DOWN TO CHECK IT OUT.
THATS RIGHT! I HAD ALMOST FOR-GOT-TEN.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE ANYWAY?


WE CAN TAKE CARE OF IT OURSELVES. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP. SEE YA LATER!
NO! IT'S OKAY!
BUT CAPTAIN--
AS MEMBERS OF THE DRAGON TRIBE, IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO STAY UNTIL WE'VE KILLED THE MONSTER.
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER DEMON IN THIS TUNNEL.
HA HA HA HAA !!!
HA HA!
HA HA!
plap plap
KIT CHI...
...I TRIED TO TELL YOU.

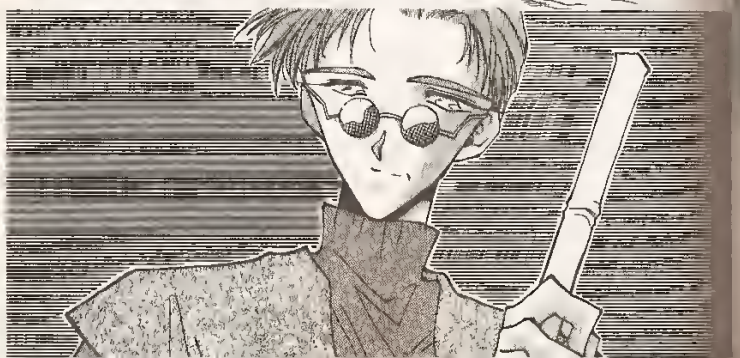
BESIDES, I'M SURE YOU NEED TO GET BACK TO DO YOUR THING.
DON'T WORRY. WE'VE COME THIS FAR.
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN MAKE IT TO THE EXIT ON YOUR OWN?
...THE SLIMY ONE, THE SCALY ONE, THE THORNY ONE...
LET'S SEE, THAT'S THE ELECTRIC ONE, THE SPITTING ONE...
...THE DEFORMED ONE AND... OH YEAH, THE ROUND ONE.
YUP, LOOKS LIKE YOU BOYS GOT ALL OF 'EM. NICE WORK.

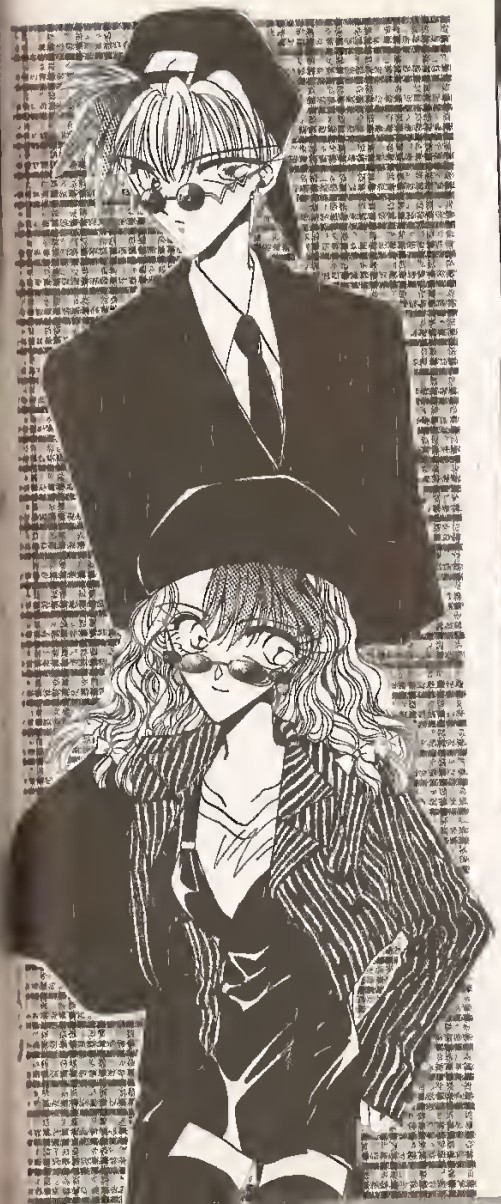
OOOH! BUT HAVING AN ERRAND BOY COULD BE FUN!
WE'LL BE FINE.
talk about a slave driver.
ISN'T THAT LIKE OFFERING US UP AS A SACRI-FICE?
CAP-TAIN ...
glare
PERHAPS ONE OF THE DRAGON OFFICERS SHOULD ...


WAIT!
TELL LORD LYKOULEON TO WAIT FOR ME. I'LL BE BACK IN NO TIME.


tapping into one's mind...
control one's soul...
ONE CAN THEN TAP INTO ANOTHER'S SOUL AND SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS, MEMORIES, POWERS AND MUCH MORE.
...ALLOWS ONE TO USE WIND MAGIC AT WILL.
I READ ABOUT IT IN ONE OF T WITCH BOOKS.
YOU CAN RESURRECT DEAD SOULS, EXTERMINATE SOULS, CONTROL NATURAL PHENOMENA... EVEN LEVITATE IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.
THE WIND STAFF...
OH... I SEE.
THE CAPTAIN'S NAME. I DIDN'T GET IT.
DAMN! I FORGOT TO ASK HIM SOMETHING.
WHAT ?

THANK YOU, FIJI.
DADDY, I GOT SOME FIREWOOD. IS THIS ENOUGH?
OKAY.
THE MILFY IS READY. YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME.





WAIT A SECOND
YOU SAY THIS THING EXISTS...
...IN *THIS* WORLD?!

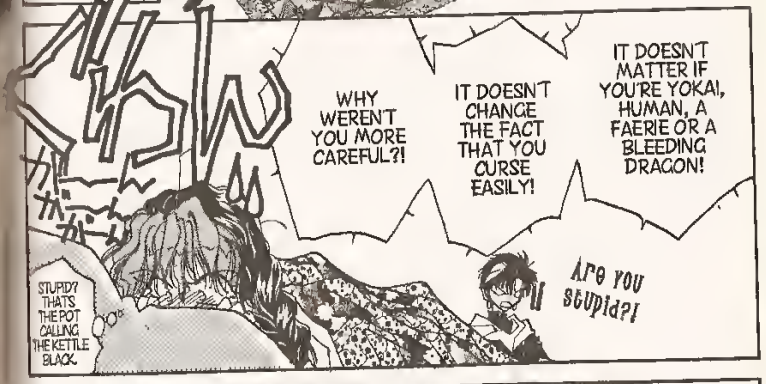
WASN'T IT COLD OUTSIDE? WANT SOME MILFY? IT'S REALLY WARM.
WELCOME HOME, GIL!
...AND ATTACKED VILLAGERS?
IT CAME DOWN ... THE MOUNTAIN ...
I HEARD ANOTHER ONE CAME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ...
DID YOU SEE ANY SCARY DEMONS ON THE WAY BACK?
...AND THAT IT ATTACKED SOME VILLAGERS AGAIN.
WELCOME HOME, BIG BROTHER.
OOPS!
PHEW
BE CAREFUL OR FIJI WILL GET CONFUSED.
YOU'RE THE BIG BROTHER...
...BARL.

AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
IF WE PRAY, THE DEMON WILL GO AWAY.
...AND PRAY THAT IT CALMS DOWN.
WHEN THE DEMON COMES DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN WE LOCK ALL THE DOORS...
IT'S OKAY. DON'T BE SCARED.
A GUT INSTINCT.
I HAD A FEELING THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU LIKE I DID MOMMY.
GIL, BE CAREFUL.
YEAH! IT'S REAL SCARY AND IT GROWLS.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO JUST GUARD THE MOUNTAIN, BUT IT'S BEEN ACTING ALL WEIRD.
BARL?
GIL... YOU LOOK SCARED.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S TRUE. A LOT OF VILLAGERS HAVE DIED.

I'M GOING OUT.
YOU'D BETTER STAY IN BED!

...he's right
I know...
BUT HIS BEDSIDE MANNER IS ATROCIOUS.
When I was a kid, I couldn't control my magic either. I ended up coming down with a lot of fevers.
NOW, WHAT WAS IT I WAS GOING TO GET?
Diggie

I WARNED YOU, DIDN'T I?
I SAID YOU'D GET A FEVER IF YOU GOT TOO CLOSE.
I AM YOKAI ...
...YOU'D THINK I'D BE IMMUNE TO THIS CURSE.

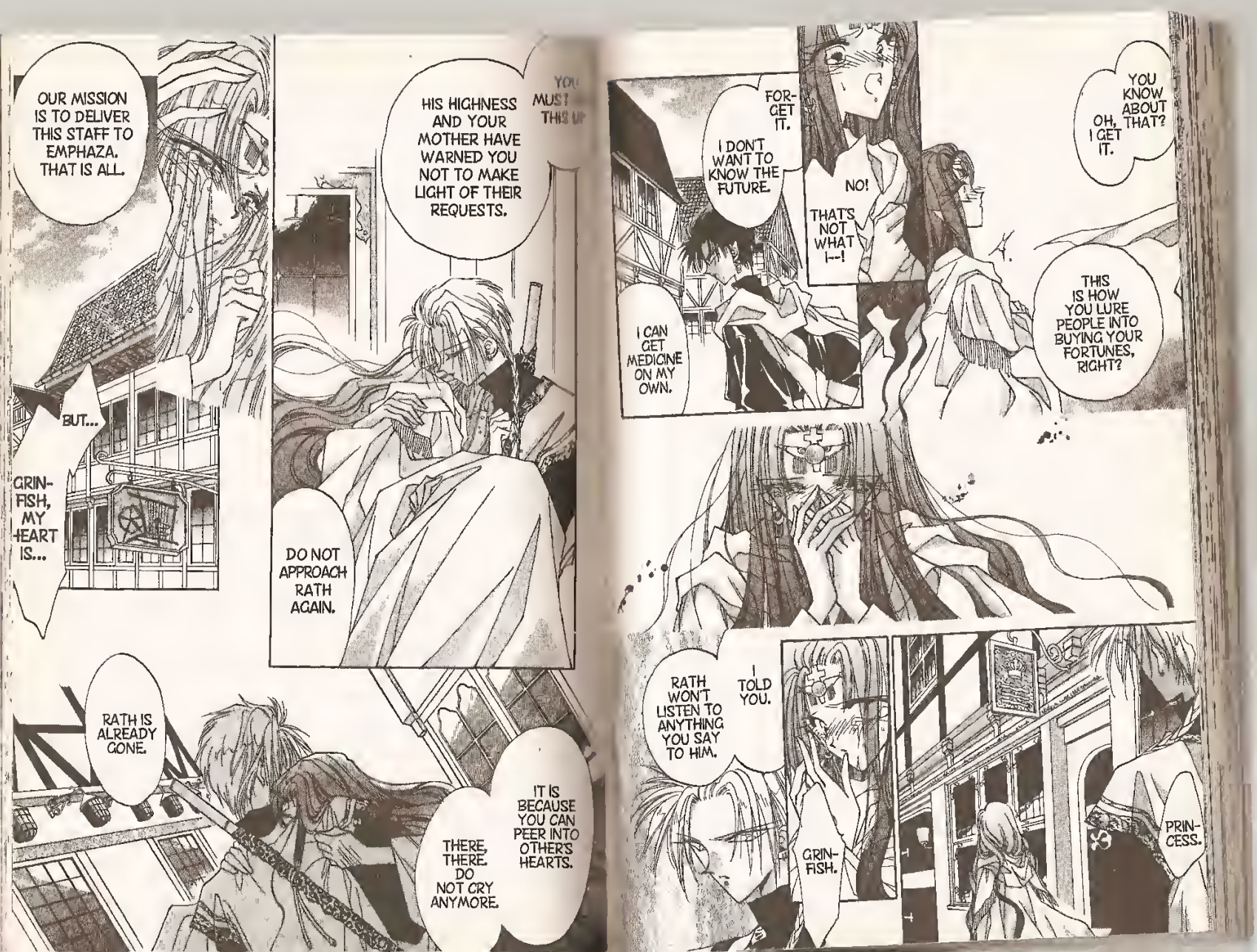

WHY WEREN'T YOU MORE CAREFUL?!
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU CURSE EASILY!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE YOKAI, HUMAN, A FAERIE OR A BLEEDING DRAGON!
Are you stupid?!
STUPID? THAT'S THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK.

IF YOU DON'T GET REST, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO GET BETTER.
IT COULDVE BEEN A LOT WORSE.
WE'RE JUST LUCKY THAT YOU'RE NOT A HUMAN!

but I don't need even the red dragon crystal.
THERE'S NO PLACE THEY CAN HIDE SOMETHING WHERE I CAN'T FIND IT.
THEIR ONLY OPTION IS TO TRY BEING NICE TO ME AND HOPE THAT KEEPS ME IN CHECK.
THEY WILL GET WHAT THEY DESERVE.
JUST WAIT.
MY FOR-TUNE?
UM ... MAY I READ YOU YOUR FOR-TUNE?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WAS DIS-TRAC-TED.
OH! EXCUSE ME.

THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
WHENEVER THAT HAPPENED...
...EVERYONE BROUGHT ME CANDY AND FRUIT.
THEY EVEN READ TO ME.
THE DRAGON TRIBE REALLY DID KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON ME.
AFTER ALL, I *WAS* CONSTANTLY STEALING ALL THEIR MOST VALUABLE POSSESSIONS.
I EVEN ENDED UP WITH THE RED DRAGON CRYSTAL.
FIRE DRAGON AND SNOW CREWGER...
IF IT WASN'T ONE THING, IT WAS ANOTHER.

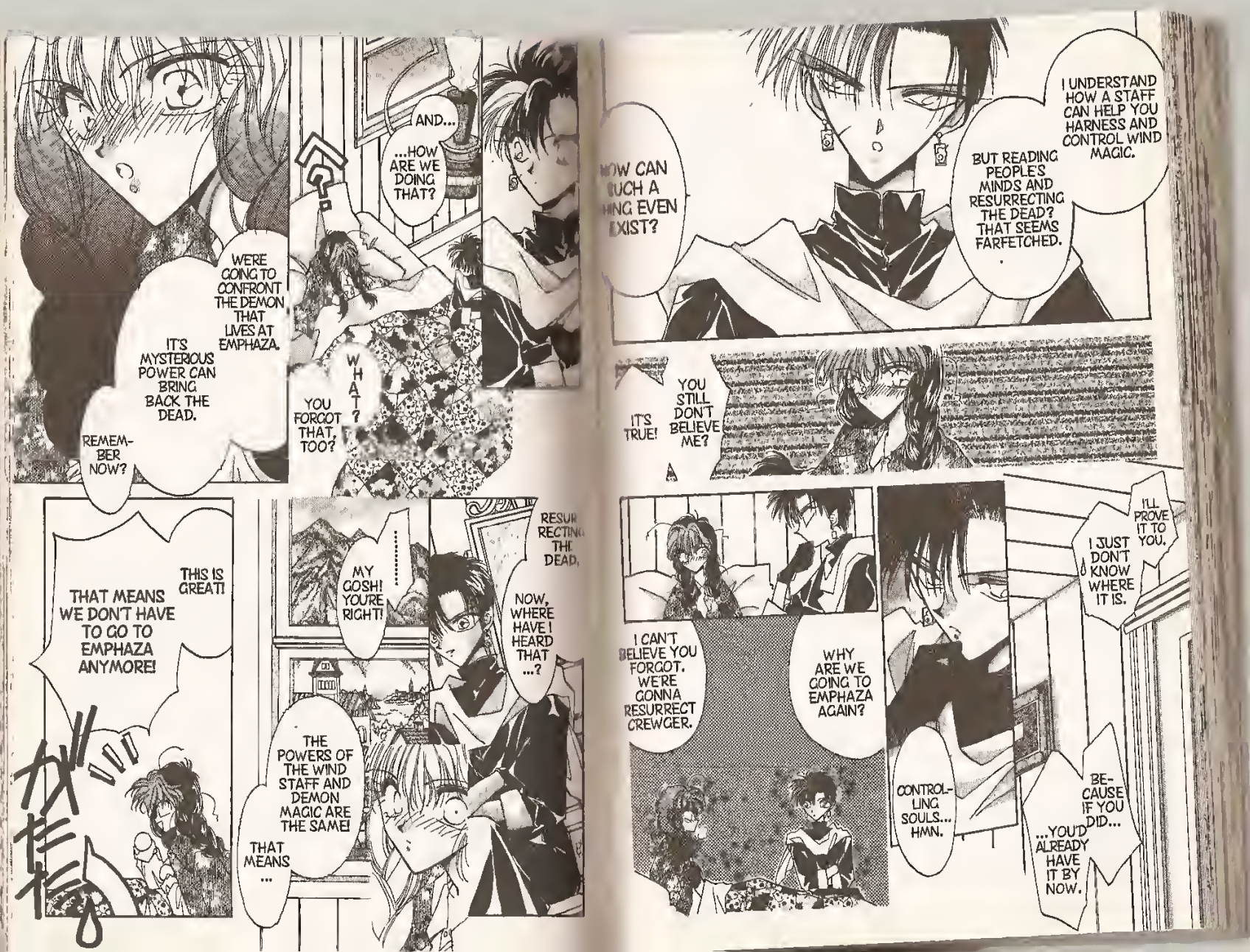
YOU AT IT AGAIN?
YOU KNOW FORTUNE-TELLING IS USELESS...
SHE CARES TOO MUCH.
POOR GIRL.
ALL RIGHT. I'M INTER-ES-TED.
IF YOUR FRIEND IS SICK, I KNOW A VERY GOOD MEDICINAL BROTH.
IT WORKS REALLY WELL FOR FEVERS CAUSED BY SICKNESS DEMONS.
I'M IN A HURRY.
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN I BELIEVE IN THIS STUFF. MAKE IT QUICK.
I CANNOT SEE YOUR PRESENT...
NO THANKS. I'M NOT INTO THAT SORT OF THING.
...THE RED CRYS-TAL...
I CAN SEE THE RED LIGHT FROM WITHIN YOU.
HMM...
PLEASE, LET ME HELP YOU.
...BUT I CAN SEE THE TRUTH OF YOUR DISTANT FUTURE.
YES.
THE TRUTH OF MY FU-TURE?
THIS GIRL... HOW DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT THE RED DRAGON CRYSTAL?
IF YOU WOULD ONLY LISTEN...


OUR MISSION IS TO DELIVER THIS STAFF TO EMPHAZA. THAT IS ALL.
BUT...
GRIN-FISH, MY HEART IS...
HIS HIGHNESS AND YOUR MOTHER HAVE WARNED YOU NOT TO MAKE LIGHT OF THEIR REQUESTS.
DO NOT APPROACH RATH AGAIN.
RATH IS ALREADY GONE.
THERE, THERE. DO NOT CRY ANYMORE.
IT IS BECAUSE YOU CAN PEER INTO OTHER'S HEARTS.
FOR-GET IT.
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE FUTURE.
I CAN GET MEDICINE ON MY OWN.
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I--!
OH, I GET IT.
YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
THIS IS HOW YOU LURE PEOPLE INTO BUYING YOUR FORTUNES, RIGHT?
I TOLD YOU.
RATH WON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU SAY TO HIM.
GRIN-FISH.
PRIN-CESS.

Hm
Uh
CESIA'S STRONG. SHE'LL BE FINE WITHOUT IT.
OH WELL.
CRAP!
I FORGOT TO BUY THE MEDICINE.
AND THEN I'LL PUT IN THESE LEAVES. HOW MUCH SPICE DO I ADD?
OH WELL I'LL JUST PUT IT ALL IN!
I THINK YOU BOIL WATER FIRST...
RIGHT NOW, I HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM...
crash
Whoops, it spilled.
Is it supposed to smoke like that?
OH NO!
WHAT IS RATH DOING?
OOH, EGGS!
First time cooking, ever.
...MAKING DINNER. HELP, ANYONE?
Ooh, sharp object!
Rental cooking set
(from the front desk)
THAT FORTUNE-TELLER...
...REMINDS ME OF SOMEBODY.
CESIA?
IT IS BETTER FOR YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM.
RATH'S EMOTIONS WILL BE LIKE POISON TO YOU.

じっくん
HERE GOES NOTHING...
tee hee
ガバッ
?
IT'S...
ITS SO...
!!
I WOULDN'T SERVE THIS TO A DEMON!
IT'S TERRIBLE!
COULD YOU BE MORE BLUNT?
OH MY GOD!
EAT.
SURE.
ONE QUESTION FIRST. WHAT THE HECK IS IT?!
I DON'T KNOW. SOMEONE MADE THIS STUFF FOR ME BEFORE AND IT WAS GOOD.
I JUST DID WHAT THEY DID.
I THINK...
WHO MADE IT FOR YOU?
THE DRAGON QUEEN.
I REMEMBER WATCHING HER AND THINKING THAT IT LOOKED LIKE SO MUCH FUN. I JUST HAD TO TRY MAKING IT MYSELF!
BUT NO ONE ELSE EVER BROKE OUT IN A FEVER. THATZ AND RUNE ARE ALWAYS SO HEALTHY.
MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO.
GEE ... THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
HE MADE THIS THING FROM MEMORY?

FUTURE ?
BY THE WAY, I MET A FORTUNE TELLER WHILE I WAS OUT
hUPP
SHE SAID SOMETHING STRANGE.
SOMETHING ABOUT MY FUTURE...
so a fortune-teller was trying to read Mia's future.
POOR THING. DID SHE SURVIVE?
I IGNORED HER AND CAME BACK, BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I SHOULD'VE ASKED HER ABOUT THE WIND STAFF.
OH... THE WIND STAFF?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS...
...DO YOU?
NO! I DON'T, BUT...
D-DON'T ...WORRY ABOUT IT.
Is it THAT bad?
BUT THE WAY YOU GAGGED... ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
BUT IT LOOKS NUTRITIOUS, SO I'LL EAT IT.
PLUS, I'M STARVING.
WHOA! SHE FINISHED THE WHOLE THING.
OF COURSE, SHE DID CRY THE ENTIRE TIME...
WAAAAH! I DON'T EVER WANT TO DO THAT AGAIN !!!
MOMMY !!
... WATER.
HERE ...
OKAY, OKAY!
YOU BETTER MAKE IT TASTE BETTER, NEXT TIME.


I UNDERSTAND HOW A STAFF CAN HELP YOU HARNESS AND CONTROL WIND MAGIC.
BUT READING PEOPLE'S MINDS AND RESURRECTING THE DEAD? THAT SEEMS FARFETCHED.
HOW CAN SUCH A THING EVEN EXIST?
IT'S TRUE!
YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME?
I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.
...YOU'D ALREADY HAVE IT BY NOW.
BE-CAUSE IF YOU DID...
CONTROL-LING SOULS... HMN.
WHY ARE WE GOING TO EMPHAZA AGAIN?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FORGOT. WE'RE GONNA RESURRECT CREWGER.
AND...
...HOW ARE WE DOING THAT?
WHAT?
YOU FORGOT THAT, TOO?
WE'RE GOING TO CONFRONT THE DEMON THAT LIVES AT EMPHAZA.
IT'S MYSTERIOUS POWER CAN BRING BACK THE DEAD.
REMEM-BER NOW?
THIS IS GREAT!
THAT MEANS WE DON'T HAVE TO GO TO EMPHAZA ANYMORE!
MY GOSH! YOU'RE RIGHT!
RESUR-RECTING THE DEAD.
NOW, WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT ...?
THE POWERS OF THE WIND STAFF AND DEMON MAGIC ARE THE SAME!
THAT MEANS ...

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT HAS A POWER SIMILAR TO THE LEGENDARY DEMON AND THE WIND STAFF.
THE WIND DRAGON.
IT'S EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN THE LIGHT, FIRE, WATER, AND EARTH DRAGONS.
IT'S THE LAST OF THE FIVE DUEL DRAGONS.
LISTEN TO YOURSELF. YOU JUST SAID YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THE WIND STAFF IS!
ONCE I GET THE WIND STAFF, I CAN BRING CREWGER BACK MYSELF...
RIGHT? RIGHT?
SHE IS SOOOO DENSE!!
はあ
YES, SIR.
OH YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT MEANS IF WE GO TO EMPH-AZA...
THE POWERS OF THE LEGENDARY DEMON AND THE WIND STAFF ARE THE SAME...
...SO THE DEMON WILL PROBABLY KNOW WHERE IT IS.
DO YOU FOLLOW ME?
BINGO!

I used to serve food, you know.
THAT'S NOT IT! I NEED TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES HOW ANYONE COULD MAKE SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE!
YOU WANT MORE? I KNEW IT TASTED GOOD!
EWW! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WASH THOSE.
I THOUGHT I TASTED SAND!
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOU AND EGGS?!
That's Way too strong!
YOU PUT LEAVES IN MY SOUP?!
AND WHY'S THE PEPPPER JAR EMPTY! YOU DIDN'T USE IT ALL, DID YOU?!
SOO? YOU'RE healthy.
YEAH, BUT HOW'S YOUR FEVER, CESIA?
LYK-OUL-EON!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE LEGENDARY DEMON...
...IS THE WIND DRAGON?
I'M NOT SAYING THAT.
??
I SEE...
We'll find out when we get there...
I JUST WANTED TO KEEP YOU INFORMED. GIVE YOU A HEADS UP.
...CAN YOU MAKE THAT DISH ONE MORE TIME?
SO... RATH ...
WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF IT WAS?

WHERE ARE YOU, LYKOULEOF?
RUWALK?
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER HERE?
I've been combing the place this whole time.
AL FEEGI'S ABOUT TO FIND OUT A SEARCH PARTY.
OVER HERE.
I FOUND IT BY ACCIDENT.
RATH'S ...
... PRECIOUS GRAVE.
"THE SHI OF THI LIGHT DRAGON.
... ILLUSER'S SOUL...
...AND THE MANY HUMANS, FAERIES AND OTHER DRAGON KNIGHTS THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED."
THAT'S WHAT'S ENGRAVED ON THE TOMB-STONE.

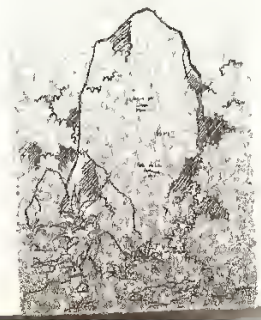
NOW RU WALK ...
...I NEVER SAID I HAD REGRETS.
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I DON'T THINK YOU MADE A MISTAKE.
YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE BACK THEN.
IF YOU HADN'T...
...THERE'D BE A LOT MORE PEOPLE BURIED HERE.
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WAS ALMOST KILLED, TOO.
.....
AND I WAS READY TO DIE.
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
HE BUILT A GRAVE OUT HERE.
FOR THEM.
I ALWAYS WONDERED ...
...WHAT HE DID WITH LIGHT DRAGON'S REMAINS.
TUCKED AWAY, HIDDEN FROM VIEW.
NO REGRETS.
REGRETS?
OKAY?
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU REST...
LIGHT...

WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE KEEPING SECRETS.
BUT IF RATH FINDS OUT, HISTORY MIGHT REPEAT ITSELF.
GOOD IDEA.
OKAY.
RUWALK, DON'T TELL RATH THAT WE FOUND THIS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
ALFEECI'S PROBABLY WORRIED.
LET'S HURRY BACK.

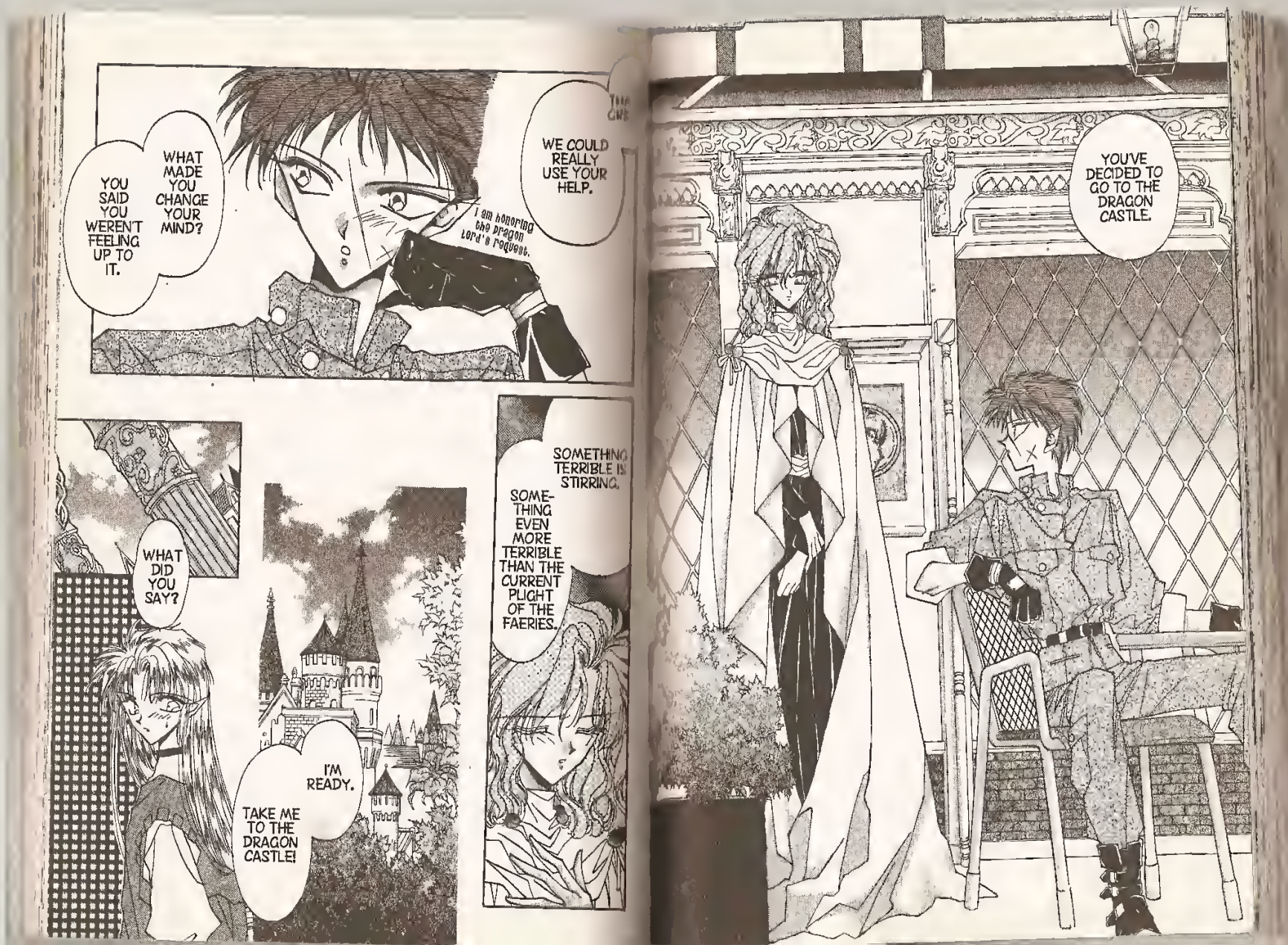
...there was no other way to save as many people as I did.

He is right.

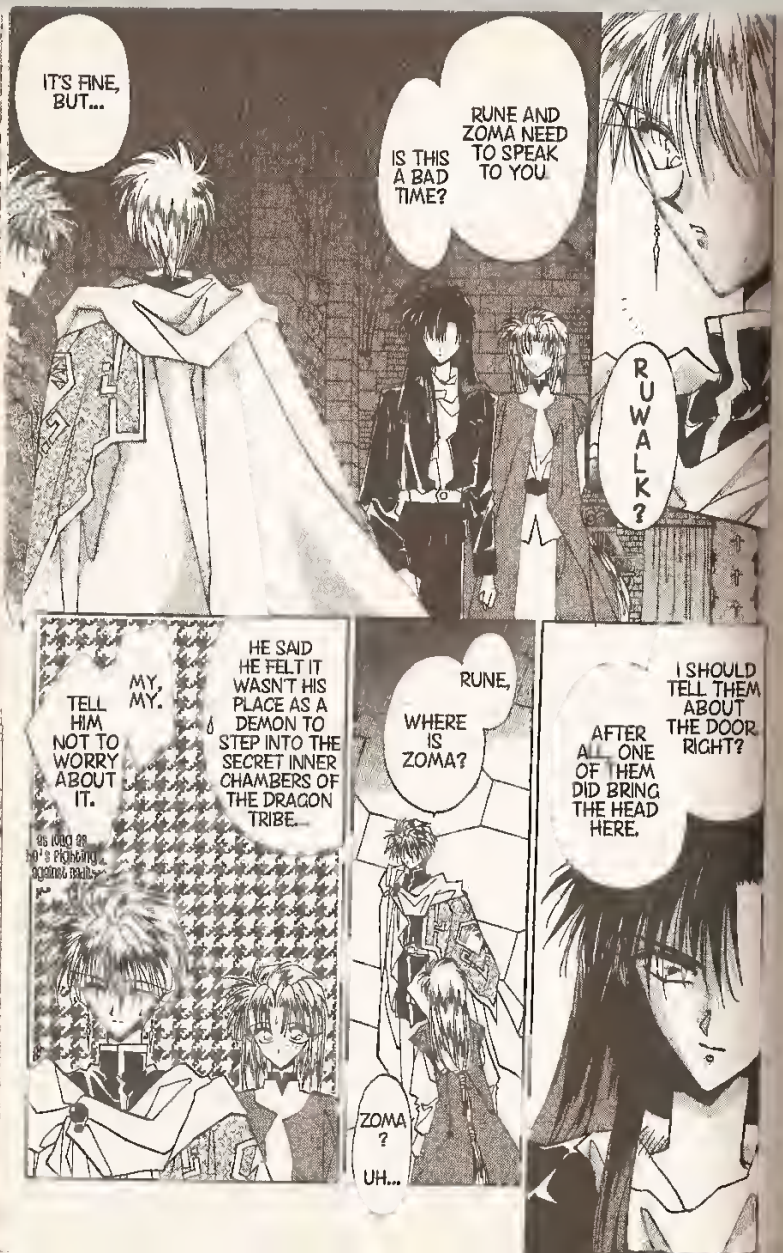
No other way...

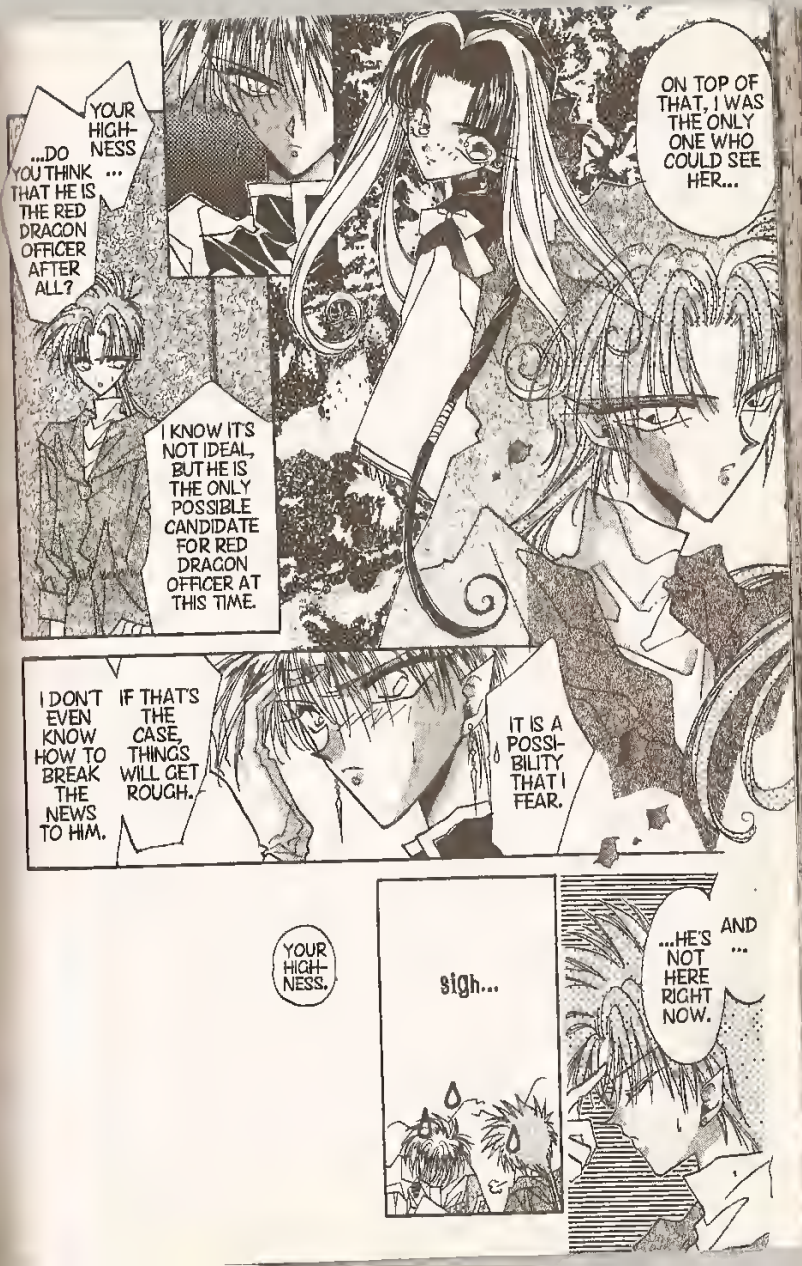


Back then...


YOU'VE DECIDED TO GO TO THE DRAGON CASTLE.
WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP.
I am honoring the dragon Lord's request.
WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T FEELING UP TO IT.
SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS STIRRING.
SOME-THING EVEN MORE TERRIBLE THAN THE CURRENT PLIGHT OF THE FAERIES.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I'M READY.
TAKE ME TO THE DRAGON CASTLE!

THE HEAD IS SAFE INSIDE.
GOOD. CLOSE THAT FOR ME.
YES, SIR.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THIS MYSTERIOUS GIRL.
YES. IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS TO LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS.
SHOULD WE CAST THE RED DRAGON OFFICER'S SPELL BY FORCE IF NEED BE?
...WHAT DID THE GIRL SAY?
I THOUGHT THAT... ...I SHOULD TELL HIS HIGH-NESS.
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT I JUST THOUGHT HE WAS AROUND SOMEWHERE ...
WHAT? WHEN DID YOU NOTICE?
...BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WENT.
YEAH ...
LET'S ASK HIM.
RUWALK IS OVER THERE.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
DON'T WORRY. HE WON'T BE MAD.
I'LL GO WITH YOU.


IT'S FINE, BUT...
IS THIS A BAD TIME?
RUNE AND ZOMA NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU.
RUWALK?
MY, MY.
TELL HIM NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
HE SAID HE FELT IT WASN'T HIS PLACE AS A DEMON TO STEP INTO THE SECRET INNER CHAMBERS OF THE DRAGON TRIBE...
RUNE, WHERE IS ZOMA?
ZOMA? UH...
I SHOULD TELL THEM ABOUT THE DOOR, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL ONE OF THEM DID BRING THE HEAD HERE.


YOUR HIGH-NESS ...
...DO YOU THINK THAT HE IS THE RED DRAGON OFFICER AFTER ALL?
I KNOW IT'S NOT IDEAL, BUT HE IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR RED DRAGON OFFICER AT THIS TIME.
ON TOP OF THAT, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SEE HER...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HIM.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THINGS WILL GET ROUGH.
IT IS A POSSI-BILITY THAT I FEAR.
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
sigh...
...HE'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW.
AND ...

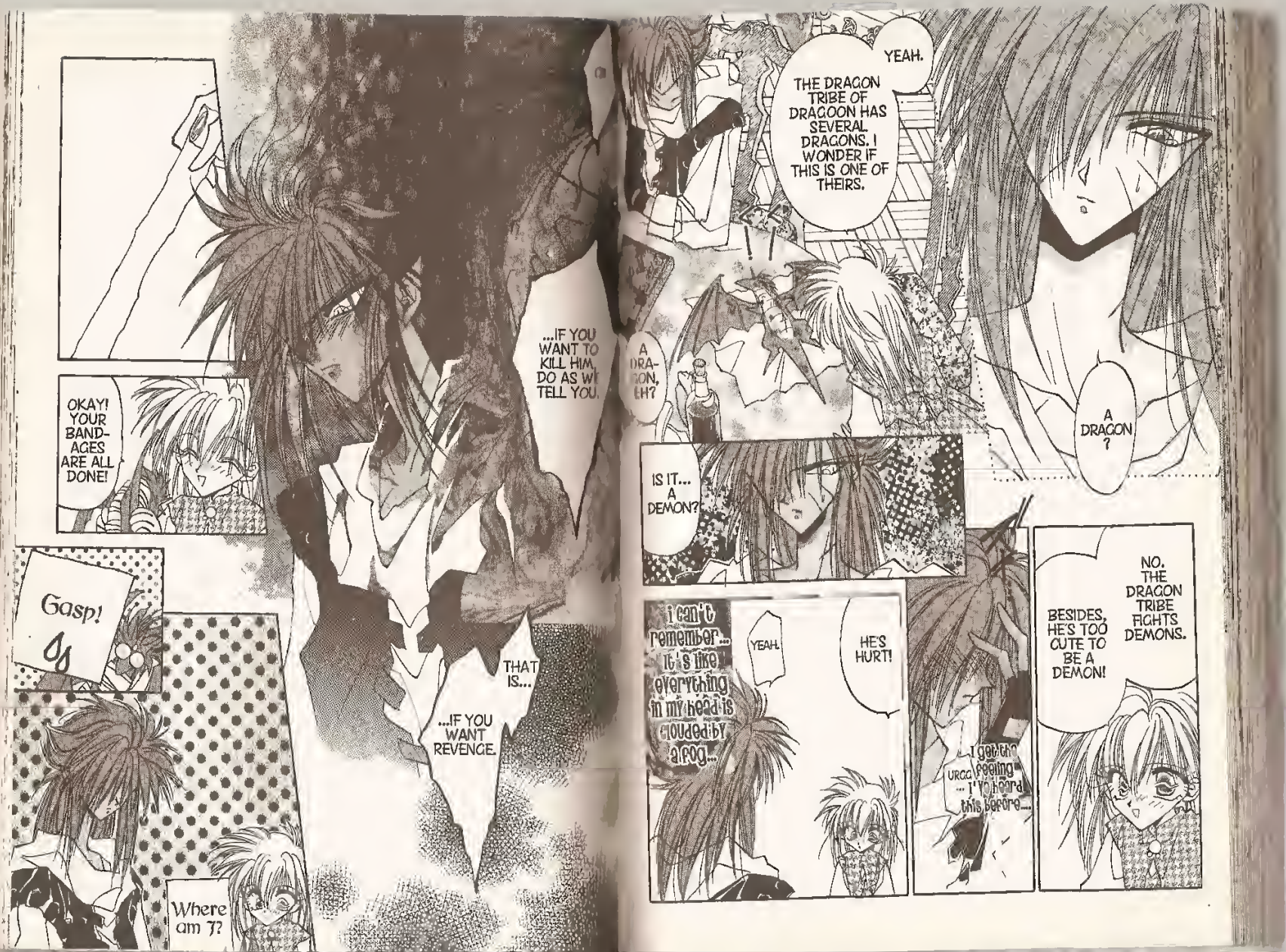
AREN'T YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR A RED DRAGON OFFICER?
WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.
THE SEAL MUST BE COMPLETE.
He feels it...
That's right.
He's experienced Nadil's power first hand on several occasions.
THERE IS A REASON WE CANNOT FIND HIM.
RIGHT.
THE RED DRAGON OFFICER HAS THE RED DRAGON CRYSTAL.
ONCE HE SEALS IT WITHIN HIS BODY, HE BECOMES AN OFFICER.
THE RED DRAGON CRYSTAL ...
... THERE ARE CRYSTALS FOR THE DRAGON OFFICERS.
JUST AS THERE ARE DUEL DRAGONS FOR THE KNIGHTS..
FIVE COLORED CRYSTALS, EACH FOR THE FIVE RESPECTIVE OFFICERS.
BUT ...

BUT WE ARE SHORT ONE OFFICER, RIGHT NOW.
IT MAKES IT MORE LIKELY THAT THE UNTHINK-ABLE WILL HAPPEN.
SO FOR NOW ...
...WELL HAVE TO RELY ON THE DRAGON KNIGHTS AND DRAGON OFFICERS.
IT'S ACTUALLY BEHIND FIVE DOORS.
EACH ONE IS SEALED WITH A DRAGON OFFICER'S SPELL.
NADIL'S HEAD.
IS IT BEHIND THAT DOOR?
Sigrd

DON'T LET IT TROUBLE YOU.
NOW, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?
OH, YEAH!
UM, WELL... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT...
IT COULDN'T BE...!
"Someone to whom it does not belong"
FIRE HAS DISAP-PEARED?!
FIRE? BUT I THOUGHT RATH LEFT HIM WITH ZOMA.
IT WOULD APPEAR SO.

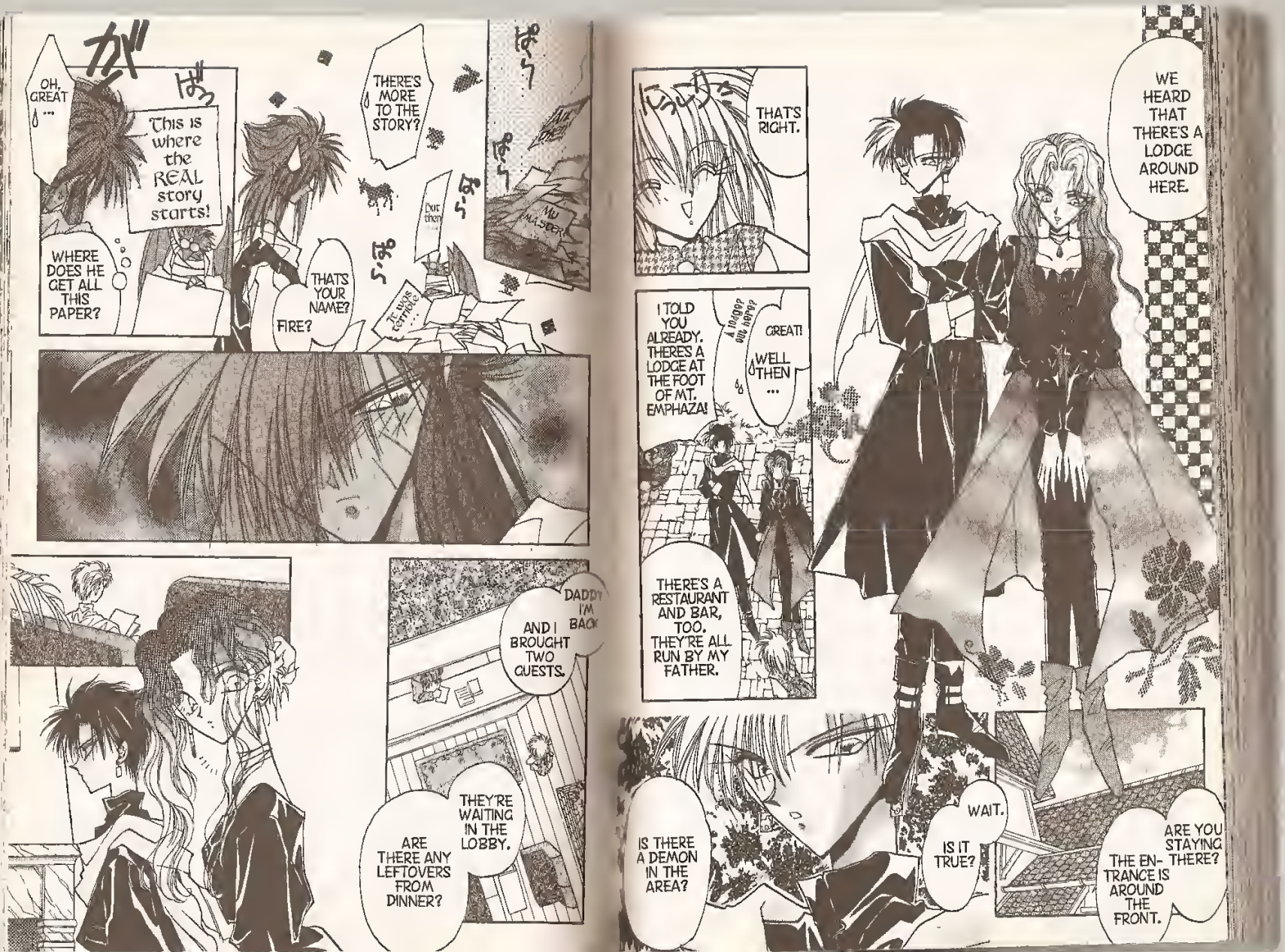
"Someone to whom it does not belong"...?
...RIGHT NOW, IT'S IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE TO WHOM IT DOES NOT BELONG.
UNTIL WE CAN GET IT BACK, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE A RED DRAGON OFFICER.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
What exactly does he mean?

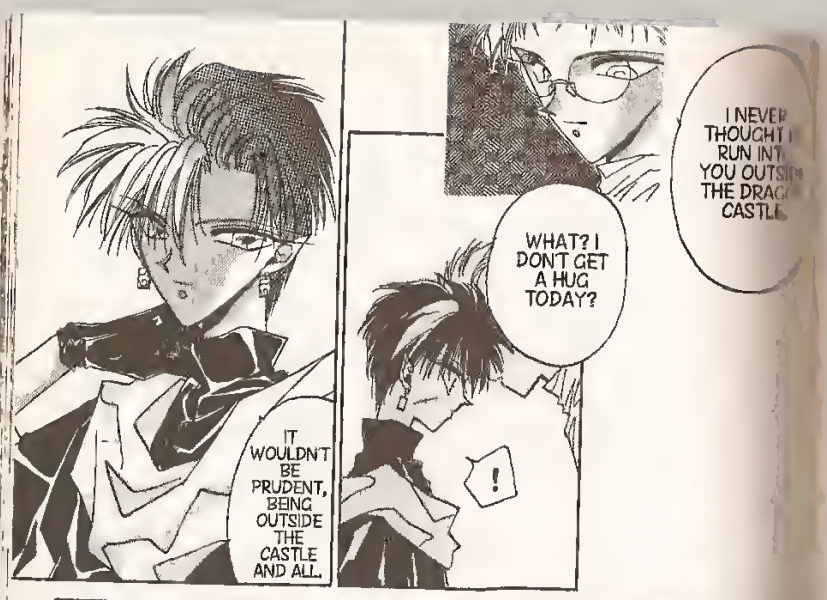
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT A STRANGE CREATURE. IT LOOKS INJURED.
I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE IT.
WHAT DOES THIS THING EAT? I WONDER.
I HAVE... MEDICINAL HERBS.
BUT FOOD?
HEY! IT'S A DRAGON!
how eleven, it's still asleep.
I'm hungry!
stomach growling
AN ANIMAL?
I THOUGHT IT WAS A RED RAG.

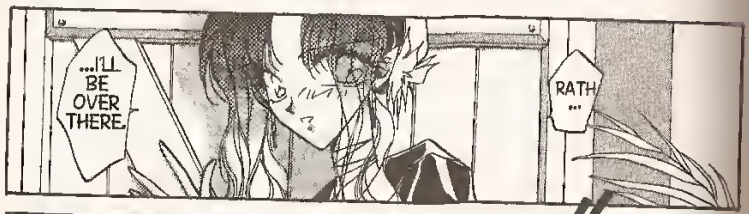

Where am I?
Gasp!
OKAY! YOUR BAND-AGES ARE ALL DONE!
...IF YOU WANT TO KILL HIM, DO AS WI TELL YOU.
THAT IS...
...IF YOU WANT REVENGE.
I can't remember... It's like everything in my head is clouded by a fog...
YEAH.
HE'S HURT!
URGG... I get th feeling I've heard this before...
BESIDES, HE'S TOO CUTE TO BE A DEMON!
NO. THE DRAGON TRIBE FIGHTS DEMONS.
IS IT... A DEMON?
A DRA-GON, EH?
YEAH. THE DRAGON TRIBE OF DRAGOON HAS SEVERAL DRAGONS. I WONDER IF THIS IS ONE OF THEIRS.
A DRAGON ?

I'LL GO FIND SOME FOOD.
YOU STAY WITH MR. DRAGON, OKAY?
BUT ... WAIT!
GROWL...
SHEESH! I GUESS SOME-ONE'S HUNGRY!
I WONDER WHAT DRAGONS EAT?
HEY! LITTLE GIRL!
You wanna hear my story? It's long.
FINE. I'M LISTEN-ING.

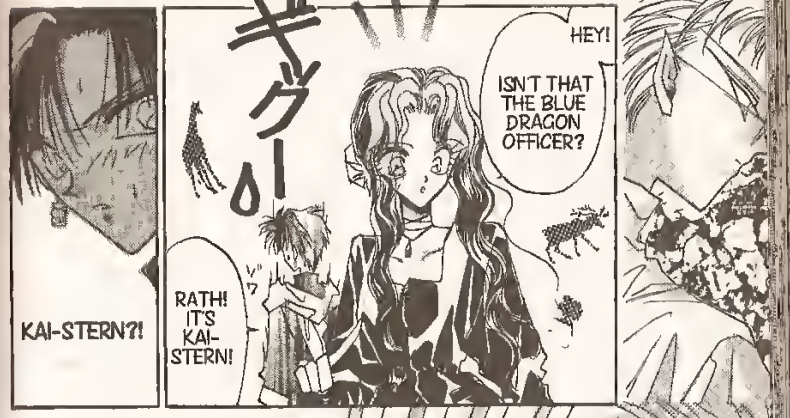
OH.
Aa uah~
woah!
SORRY! DID I WRAP YOU TOO TIGHT?
ARE YOU HURT?
Can't breathe.
It's a long story, but ...
sad
TELL ME!
yeah yeah
HEY! ARE YOU FROM THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM? HOW WERE YOU HURT?
REALLY? I'M GLAD!
phew, thanks for the bandages.


OH, GREAT ...
This is where the REAL story starts!
WHERE DOES HE GET ALL THIS PAPER?
THAT'S YOUR NAME?
FIRE?
THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY?
But then...
It was terrible...
MU MASTER
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE HEARD THAT THERE'S A LODGE AROUND HERE.
I TOLD YOU ALREADY. THERE'S A LODGE AT THE FOOT OF MT. EMPHAZA!
GREAT!
WELL THEN ...
THERE'S A RESTAURANT AND BAR, TOO. THEY'RE ALL RUN BY MY FATHER.
DADDY I'M BACK
AND I BROUGHT TWO GUESTS.
THEY'RE WAITING IN THE LOBBY.
ARE THERE ANY LEFTOVERS FROM DINNER?
IS THERE A DEMON IN THE AREA?
WAIT.
IS IT TRUE?
ARE YOU STAYING THE EN- TRANCE IS AROUND THE FRONT.
THERE?


I NEVER THOUGHT I RUN INTO YOU OUTSIDE THE DRAGON CASTLE.
WHAT? I DON'T GET A HUG TODAY?
!
IT WOULDN'T BE PRUDENT, BEING OUTSIDE THE CASTLE AND ALL.

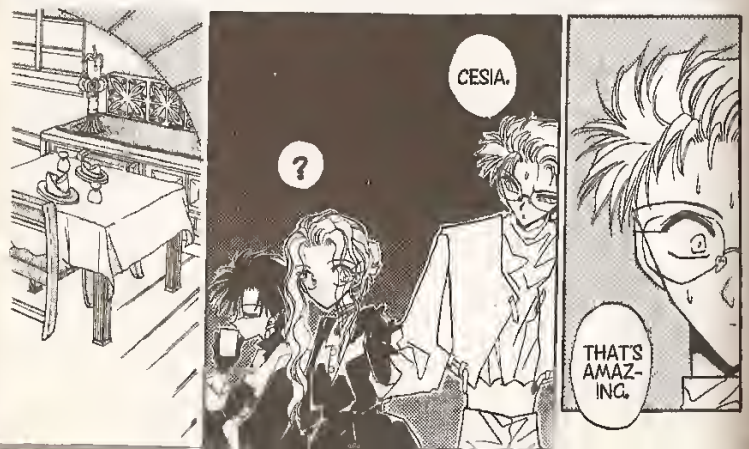

...I'LL BE OVER THERE.
RATH ...

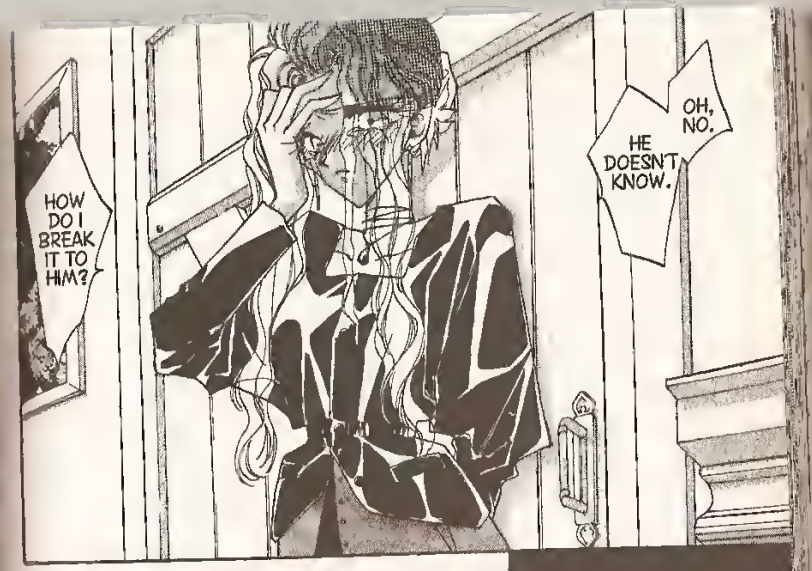
HMM ... I WONDER IF SHE'S CRYING.
?
MY GUESS IS THAT SHE'S AVOIDING YOU.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH CESIA?


KAI-STERN?!
RATH! IT'S KAI-STERN!
HEY! ISN'T THAT THE BLUE DRAGON OFFICER?

RATH?
AND CESIA?
... SO THIS IS WHERE ... YOU TWO HAVE BEEN HIDING!

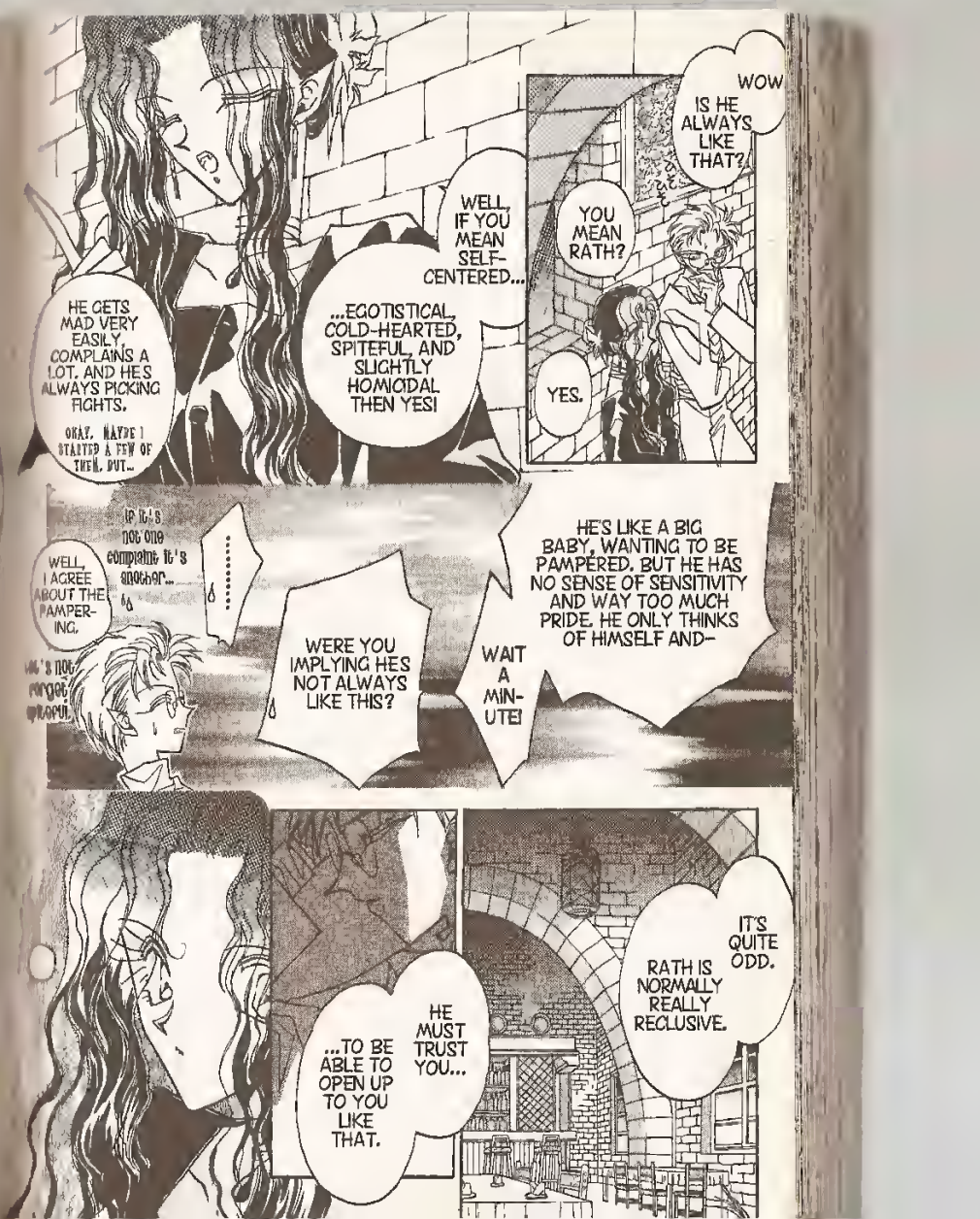
YOUR MOST LOYAL COMPANION DIES, AND YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST GET OVER IT LIKE THAT?
OBSESSING? HOW CAN YOU CALL IT THAT?!
I'M NOT GETTING INTO THIS RIGHT NOW!
IT WAS MY FAULT, OKAY?
SO STOP OBSESSING ABOUT IT!
THEN WHOSE FAULT WAS IT, RATH?
OH...
I'M SORRY ...
...BUT COULD YOU PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN?


?
CESIA.
THAT'S AMAZ-ING.


HOW DO I BREAK IT TO HIM?
OH, NO.
HE DOESN'T KNOW.

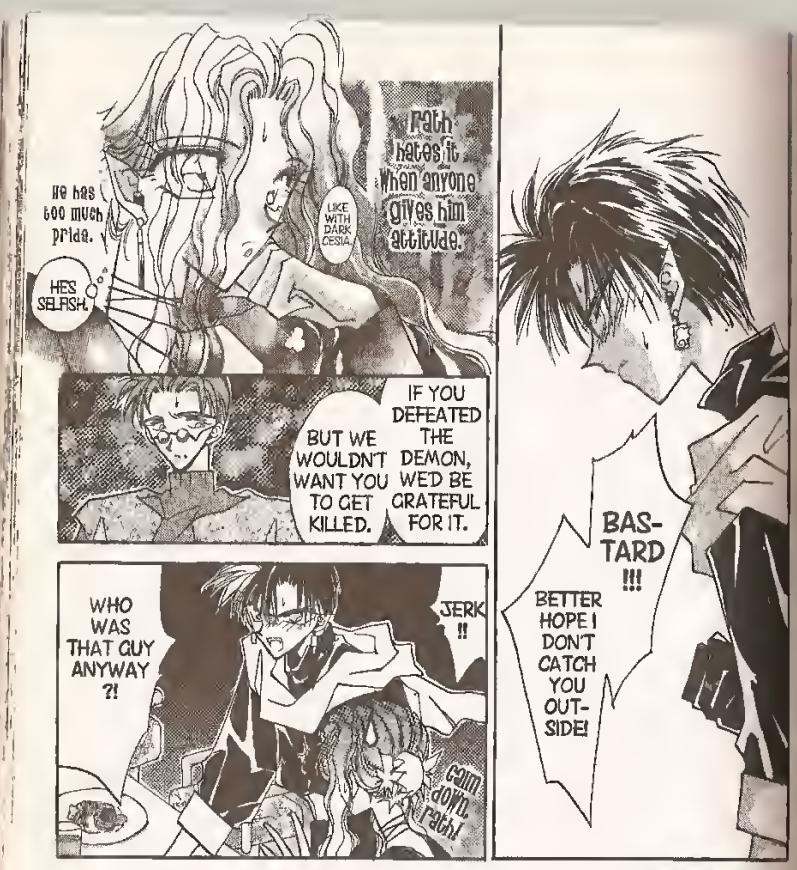
SO HE DIED PROTECT-ING CESIA...
CREW-GER IS WHAT?!
I TOLD YOU TO LET IT GO, CESIA.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
YES.

WELL, I ASKED FOR IT. I SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL. WHAT I ASK FOR, HUH?
TO BE HONEST ...
...I'M A BIT ENVIOUS.
RATH WITH HIS GUARD DOWN...
... I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THIS SIDE OF HIM.
CAREFUL?
ARE THE RUMORS TRUE?
IS THERE A DEMON LIVING ON THIS MOUNTAIN?!
"I ONLY PRETEND TO LIKE THEM, BUT I REALLY HATE THEM..."
"I HATE THEM."

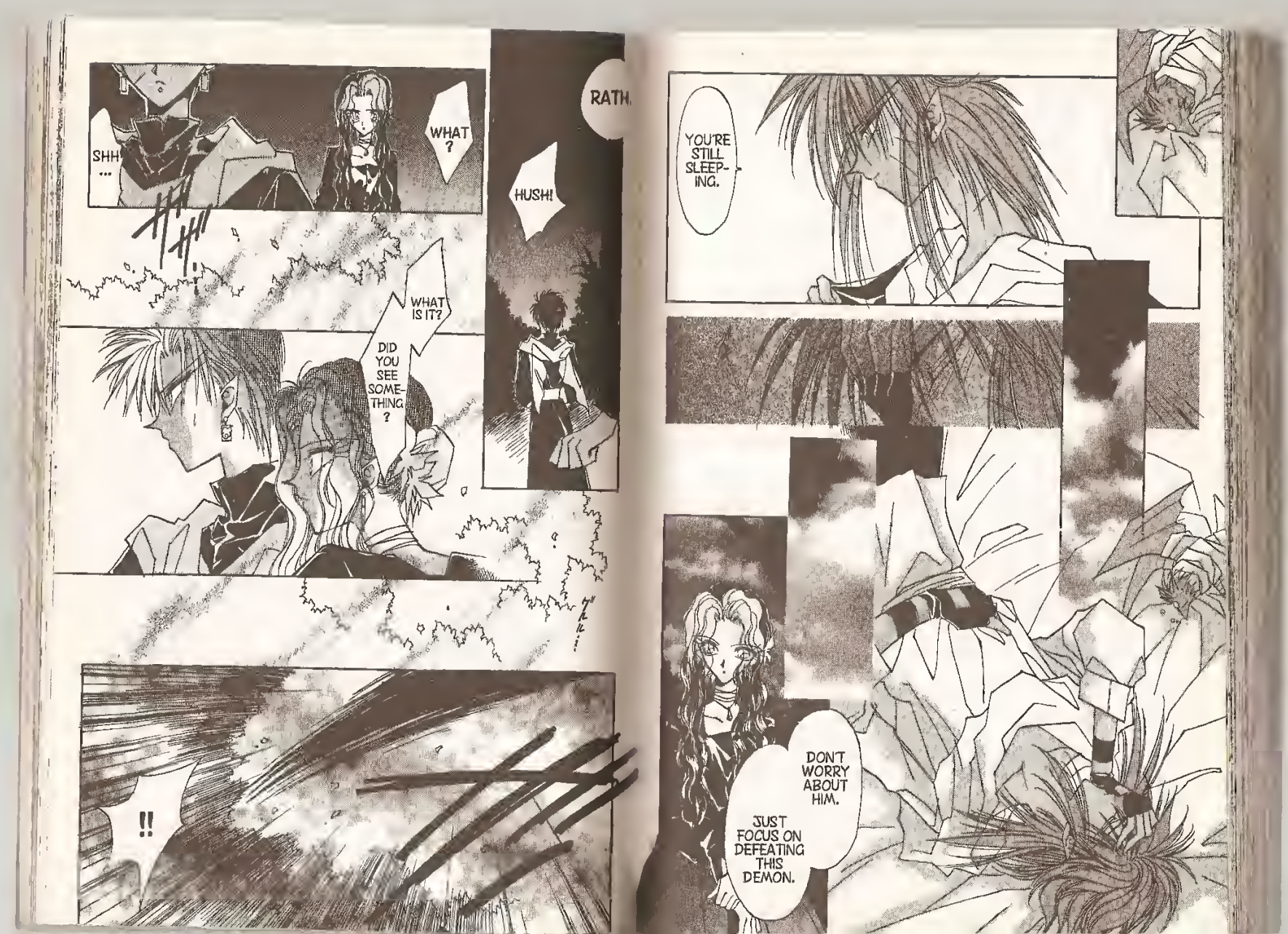

WOW IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
YOU MEAN RATH?
YES.
WELL, IF YOU MEAN SELF-CENTERED...
...EGOTISTICAL, COLD-HEARTED, SPITEFUL, AND SLIGHTLY HOMICIDAL THEN YES!
HE GETS MAD VERY EASILY, COMPLAINS A LOT, AND HE'S ALWAYS PICKING FIGHTS.
OKAY, MAYBE I STARTED A FEW OF THEM, BUT...
HE'S LIKE A BIG BABY, WANTING TO BE PAMPERED. BUT HE HAS NO SENSE OF SENSITIVITY AND WAY TOO MUCH PRIDE. HE ONLY THINKS OF HIMSELF AND-
WAIT A MIN-UTE!
WERE YOU IMPLYING HE'S NOT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
.....
WELL, I AGREE ABOUT THE PAMPER-ING.
IT'S QUITE ODD. RATH IS NORMALLY REALLY RECLUSIVE.
HE MUST TRUST YOU... ...TO BE ABLE TO OPEN UP TO YOU LIKE THAT.

sigh
STILL...
...IT MUST BE STRONG.
HE SEEMS SO EXCTED.
YOU AREN'T THINKING OF FIGHTING THE ONE-EYED DEMON...
...ARE YOU?
I CAN'T WAIT TO FIGHT IT.
YUP.
THAT'S THE PLAN.
HA!
WHAT IDIOTS!
!!
AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WE NEED TO FIND A LEGENDARY DEMON...
GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT!!!
I MEAN, WE'RE HERE...
...FOR THE LEGENDARY DEMON, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE CARE OF THE...
...MOUNTAIN DEMON, AS WELL.

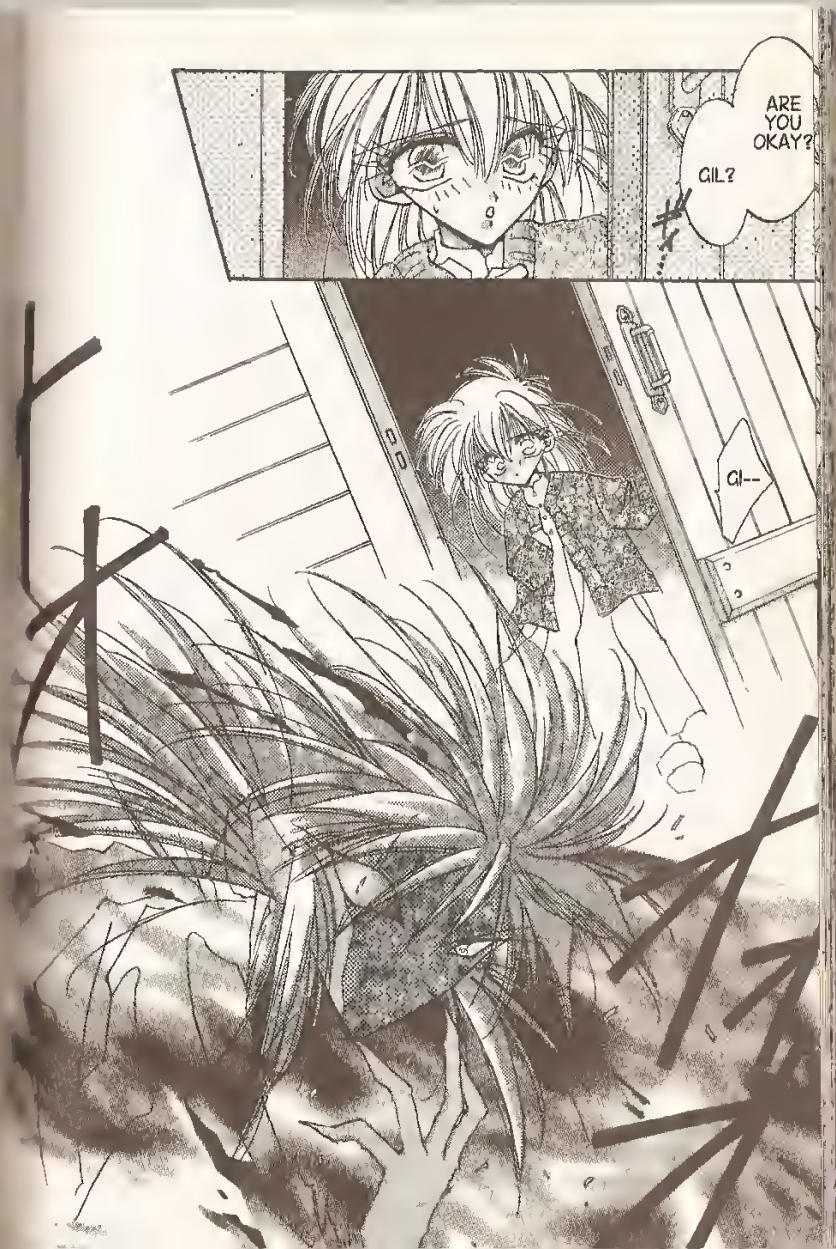
IT KILLS ANYONE WHO TRIES TO PENETRATE DEEP INTO THE FOREST.
THERE IS. ... IT IS AN ANCIENT BEAST THAT GUARDS THE MOUNTAIN.
THEY SAY IT HAS A SPLENDID MANE AND SHARP CLAWS AND FANGS.
AND ITS LEFT EYE IS MISSING.
INTER-ESTING.
HOW STRONG IS IT?
I WOULD NOT KNOW.
I'VE NEVER ENCOUN-TERED IT.
BUT EVERYONE WHO HAS SEEN IT HAS LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT.


He has too much pride.
LIKE WITH DARK CESIA
Rath hates it when anyone gives him attitude.
HE'S SELFISH.
BUT WE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GET KILLED.
IF YOU DEFEATED THE DEMON, WE'D BE GRATEFUL FOR IT.
WHO WAS THAT GUY ANYWAY ?!
JERK !!
calm down, rach!
BAS-TARD !!!
BETTER HOPE I DON'T CATCH YOU OUT-SIDE!
THAT'S MY YOUNGER BROTHER ...
YOUNGER BROTHER ?!
NO. ACTUALLY, HE'S MY OLDER BROTHER.

THE DEMON IS NOT YOUR CONCERN. FORGET ABOUT IT.
GO BACK HOME TO DADDY, KID.
RATH!
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME BORED, RICH ARISTO-CRAT'S SON IN SEARCH OF A LITTLE ADVENTURE?
OUTSIDERS CAN BE SO NAÏVE.
YOU HEARD ME. RUN BACK TO YOUR SAFE MANSION, AND PLAY SOME CROQUET OR SOMETHING.

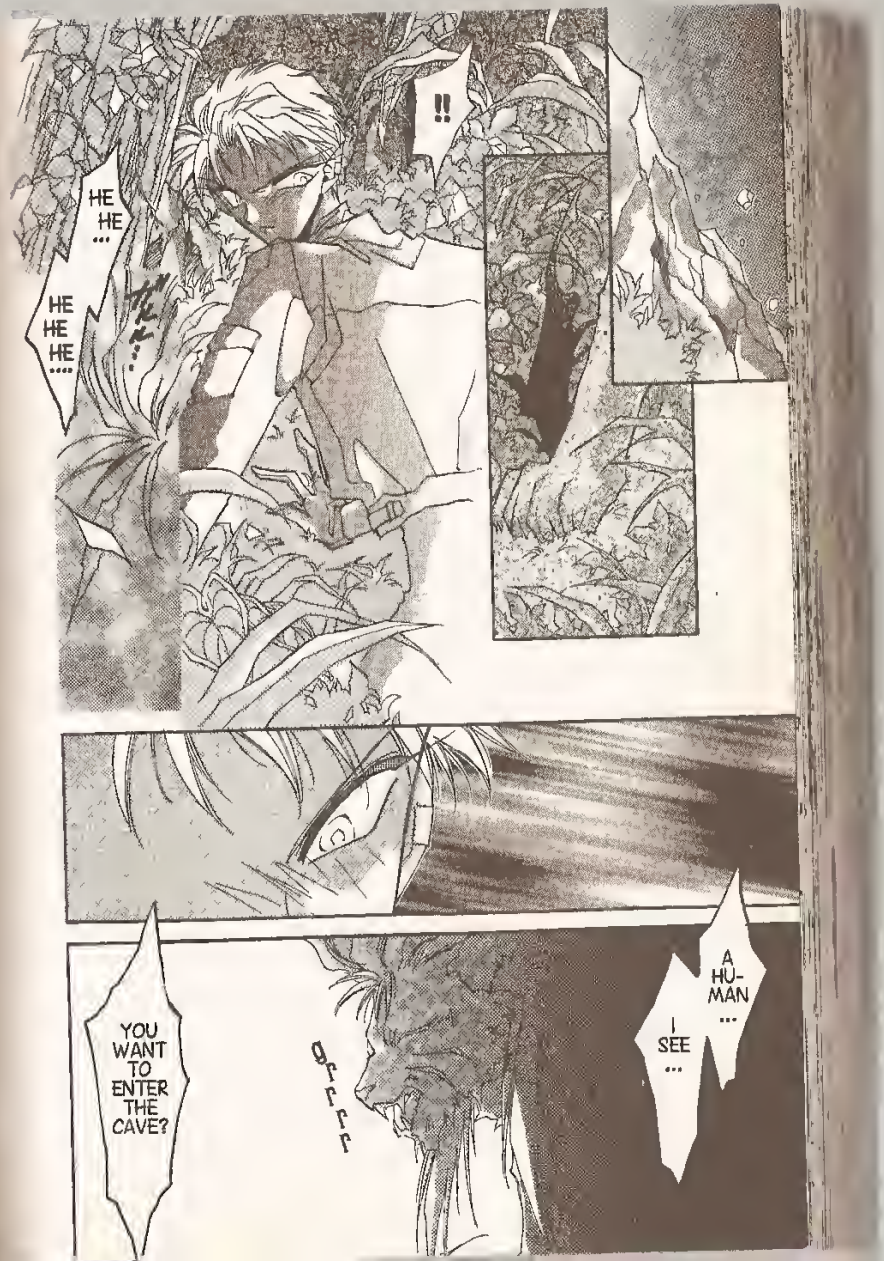

SHH...
WHAT?
RATH
HUSH!
WHAT IS IT?
DID YOU SEE SOMETHING?
!!
YOU'RE STILL SLEEPING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
JUST FOCUS ON DEFEATING THIS DEMON.

---?!
GIL?
ARE YOU GOING AFTER IT?
IT'S THE DEMON!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
GRRR
...
....
ARGH ....
AAAAA AAAAA AAAAA AAAAA AAH!!


ARE YOU OKAY?
GIL?
GI--

SO THAT'S IT.
THE CAVE WITH THE LEGENDARY DEMON. THOSE GUYS FROM YUBA BETTER BE RIGHT ABOUT THIS.
MAN. IT'S DARK UP THERE.
NO MORE FALSE LEADS.
THIS HAS TO BE IT.

HE HE HE ...
MT. ...
... EM-PHA-ZA'S ...
IN THAT CASE ...
... PREPARE TO DIE!
... DEMON!
THE GUARDIAN OF THE MOUNTAIN...!!


!!
HE HE ...
HE HE HE ....
YOU WANT TO ENTER THE CAVE?
A HU-MAN ...
I SEE ...

RATH.
WELL ...
...I'VE BEEN DOING SOME THINKING.
HM?
YEAH?
ME TOO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WAS THAT REALLY THE ONE-EYED DEMON?
WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE CATCH IT.
!!
OVER THERE.

STRANGE.
IT DEFINITELY CAME THIS WAY.
A DEAD END.
THAT'S A 50 FOOT DROP.
DID WE LOSE IT ALONG THE WAY?
IT'S GONE.
!!!

MAS-
TER!
WHAT HAP-
PENED?
LOOK AT THIS PLACE.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
IT WAS SO SUDDEN, I'M NOT SURE ...
FI-
FIJI?

ASH!
grainy
Rath!
THIS IS STRANGE.
THE AIR... IT'S TENSE.
LET'S GO.
WE LOST HIM.
WE'D BETTER HEAD BACK.

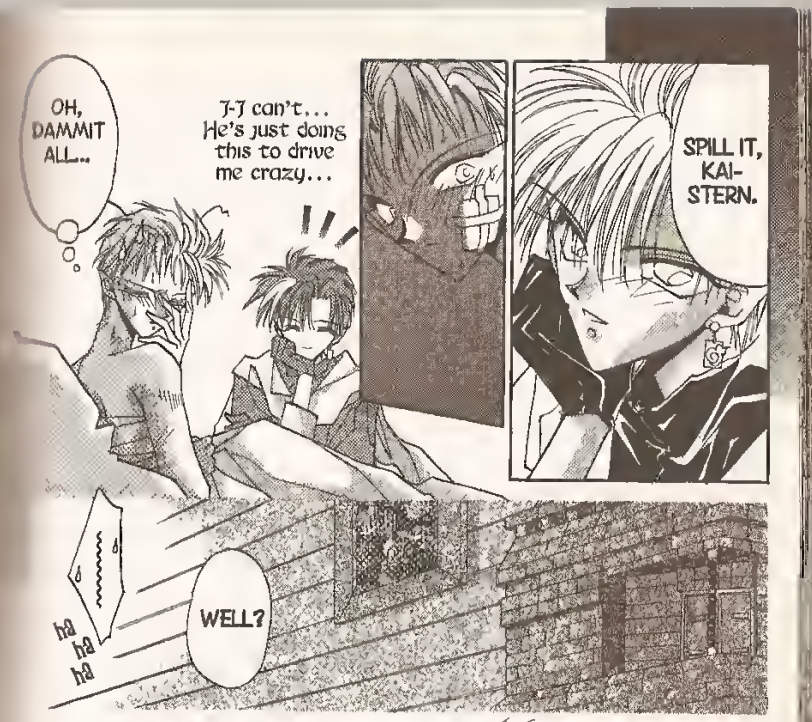
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE SAW.
SHE'S SO SCARED, SHE HASN'T SAID A WORD.
I FOUND HER LIKE THIS.
.....
KAI-STERN!
WHERE'S KAI-STERN?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ANYWHERE.

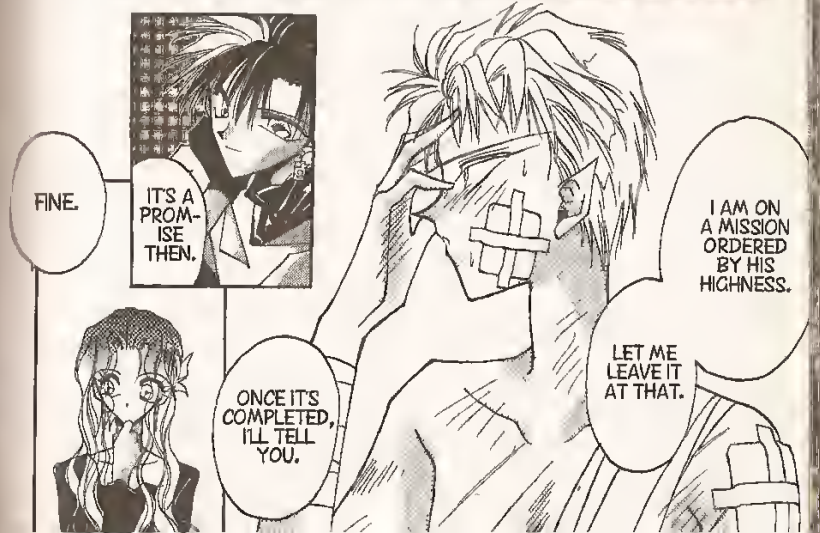
IT WAS LIKE BEING HIT BY A TORNADO.
AND THIS HAPPENED?
A tornado, huh...
FIJI?
quiver
!
.....
...?
WHAT'S WRONG?

KAI-STERN !!
I'M ALRIGHT. WELL, ALIVE, AT LEAST.
GUESS I SHOULD'VE LEFT THE DEMON-FIGHTING TO YOU.
YOU ACTUALLY LOOK WORRIED ABOUT ME.
CAREFUL, RATH. YOU HAVE A REP TO UPHOLD.
SO THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO GET A HUG FROM YOU NOW.
KAI-STERN ?
KAI-STERN !!
DID YOU FIND THE CAVE OF THE LEGENDARY DEMON?
BUT WHAT WOULD REALLY MAKE ME FEEL BETTER IS IF YOU'D TEND TO MY WOUNDS.
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
BUT NEXT TIME, TRY NOT TO OVERDO IT, OKAY?
ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

I FOUND IT, BUT I NEVER MADE IT INSIDE.
THE MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN GOT IN MY WAY.
THE MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN?
YOU MEAN THE DEMON OF MT. EMPHAZA?!
SO THE THING WE SAW WASN'T THE MOUNTAIN DEMON AFTER ALL.
IT GOT A BIT ROUGH, THERE.
FOR A MOMENT, I ACTUALLY THOUGHT I WOULDN'T MAKE IT.
OH DEAR ... WHAT A MESS ...
THAT DEMON IS NO LONGER JUST A GUARDIAN.
IT'S ATTACKING INNOCENT PEOPLE.
MANY HAVE ALREADY FALLEN VICTIM.
I'VE JUST BEEN THINKING... YOU'VE BEEN ON YOUR SECRET MISSION FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
AND AS I RECALL, YOU WOULDN'T TELL ME WHAT IT WAS. YOU WOULDN'T BE SEARCHING FOR THE LEGENDARY DEMON OF MT. EMPHAZA..
...WOULD YOU?
WELL, I'M NOT WHAT YOU WOULD CALL NORMAL.
IT'S A MIRACLE... ...THAT YOU'RE EVEN STILL ALIVE!
HMM MMM ...
YES, KATH?
I TELL YOU EVERYTHING, KAISTERN. EVERYTHING.
AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO KEEP SECRETS FROM ME!
D'OH!
NOT A GUILT TRIP.

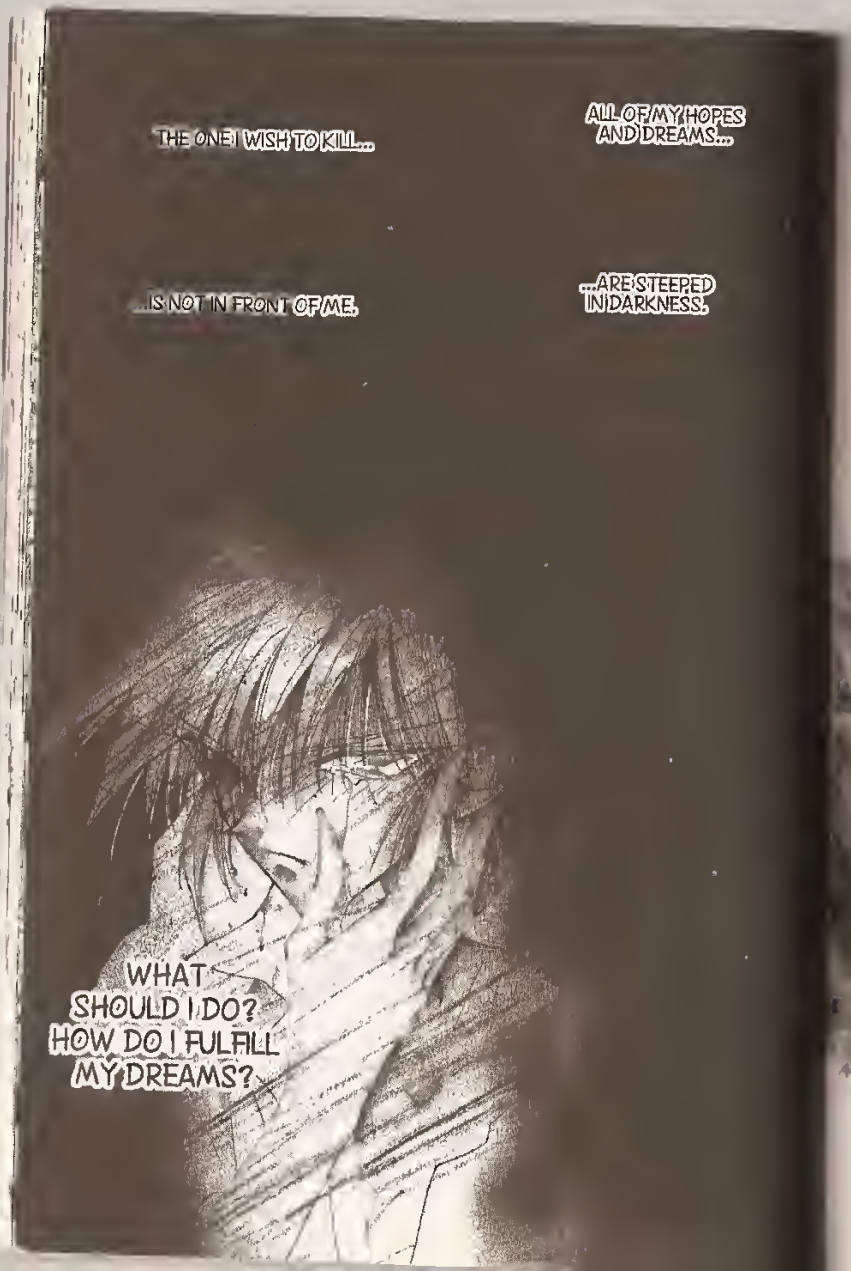
FIJI...
I WONDER WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR.
NO WONDER HE ISN'T AROUND THE PALACE MUCH.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HER.
SHE'S ACTING STRANGE.
I'VE NOTICED.
BUT, WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?


OH, DAMMIT ALL...
J-J can't... He's just doing this to drive me crazy...
SPILL IT, KAISTERN.
ha ha ha
WELL?


FINE.
IT'S A PROMISE THEN.
I AM ON A MISSION ORDERED BY HIS HIGHNESS.
LET ME LEAVE IT AT THAT.
ONCE IT'S COMPLETED, I'LL TELL YOU.

SHY-REN-DORA...
...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
ITS LIKE I'VE BLACKED OUT...
...WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER ANYTHING?
MIND CON-TROL...
...SUCH A WONDERFUL MOTIVATIONAL TOOL.
MIND CON-TROL?
WITH IT, WE'VE TAUGHT YOU ALL SORTS OF TRICKS.
YOU ARE A HUMAN TURNED DEMON BY THE WIZARD KHARL.
THAT MAKES YOU A PART OF NADIL'S ARMY. WE OWN YOU.
NORMALLY, YOU WOULD BE TOSSED OUT WITH THE REST OF THE DEFECTS.
HE PLANTED A DEMON SEED INTO YOUR RIGHT EYE.
AND WE BOUGHT YOU FOR A HEFTY SUM.

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR JOB...
BACK TO YOURSELF AGAIN?
...MY LITTLE KITTY CAT.
UH.
THINGS WOULD BE EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU JUST FOLLOWED DIRECTIONS.
THE BEST PETS ARE ALWAYS THE MOST OBEDIENT ONES.
SHY-DE-MAN?
OH, IT'S YOU, SHYREN-DORA.

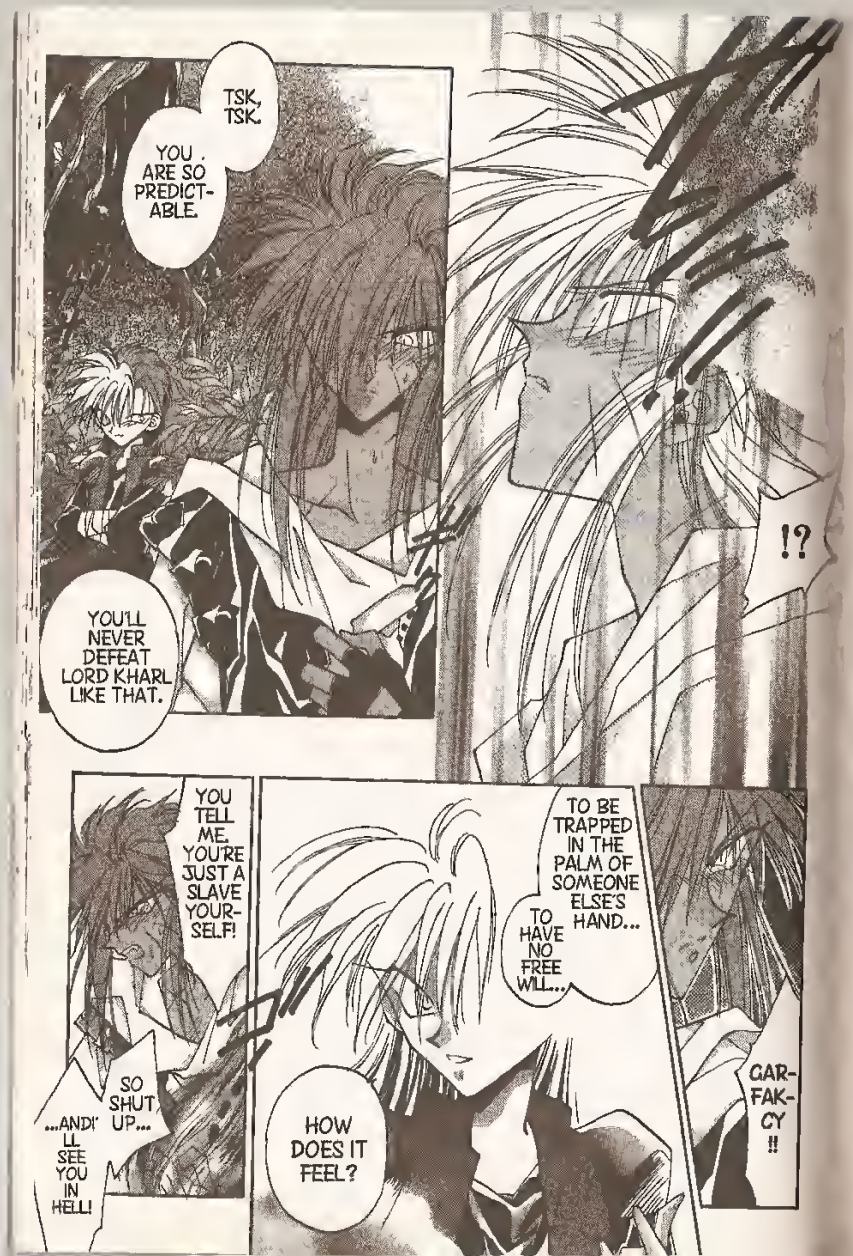

THE ONE I WISH TO KILL...
...IS NOT IN FRONT OF ME.
ALL OF MY HOPES AND DREAMS...
...ARE STEEPED IN DARKNESS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW DO I FULFILL MY DREAMS?

BUT, GENEROUS AS WE ARE, WE HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP YOU.
YOU'LL THANK US, EVENTUALLY.
IN THE MEANTIME, FEEL FREE TO KILL AS MANY HUMANS AS YOU WANT.
AFTER ALL, YOU *ARE* A DEMON NOW.

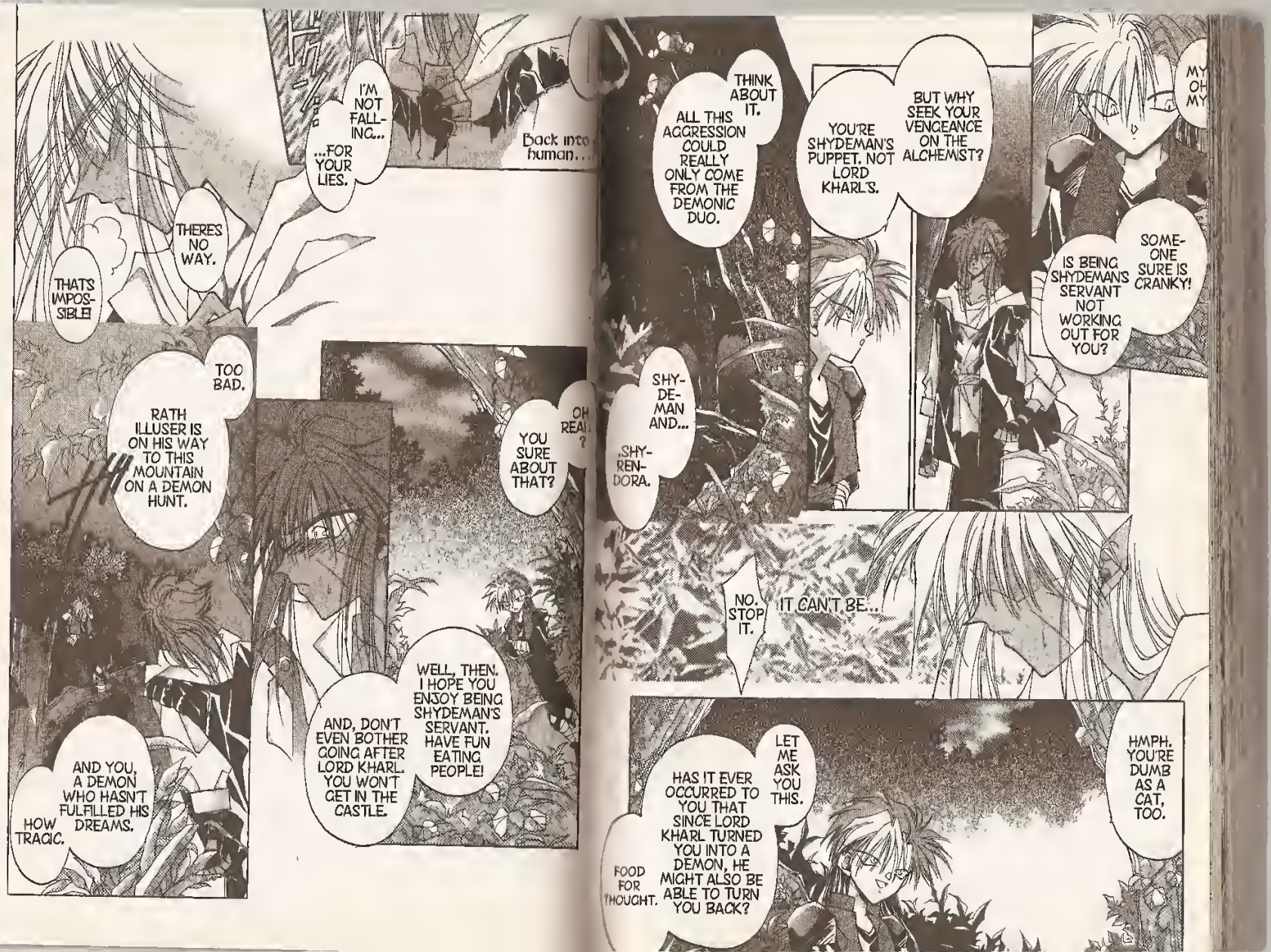
BUT WHERE IS HE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'LL KILL HIM.
I WON'T REST UNTIL I DO.
HE IS THE ONE TORTURING YOU.
KILL HIM.
HE HE ...
HE HE HE HE ...
GIL.
REVENGE?
YOU WANT ...
... RE-VENGE, DON'T YOU?
SOME-ONE'S TALKING TO ME.
THE ONE WHO MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE...
KHARL, THE ALCHE-MIST.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'LL KILL HIM.
I CAN HEAR HIM LAUGHING AT MY PAIN...

!
ASH !!
HA HA HA HA ...
GAR-FAK-CY!!
HA HA!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME DREAM!
WHATS THE MATTER? WAKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED?
OR WERE YOU DREAMING ABOUT LORD KHARL?

THAT VOICE...
HEY, YOU!
GIL!
HEY! WAKE UP, ALREADY!
...I RECOGNIZE IT.
IF YOU FALL ASLEEP HERE, YOU'RE GONNA CATCH A COLD.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT HUMAN BUT STILL...
THAT *WOULD* BE EMBARRASSING, WOULDN'T IT? A DEMON WITH A COLD. HA!


TSK, TSK.
YOU ARE SO PREDICT-ABLE.
YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT LORD KHARL LIKE THAT.
!?
YOU TELL ME, YOU'RE JUST A SLAVE YOUR-SELF!
SO SHUT UP...
...AND I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL!
HOW DOES IT FEEL?
TO BE TRAPPED IN THE PALM OF SOMEONE ELSE'S HAND...
TO HAVE NO FREE WILL...
GAR-FAK-CY !!

YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT LORD KHARL WAS THINKING OF YOU, TOO.
ADMITTEDLY, YOU'RE NOT ONE OF HIS BEST PROJECTS, BUT, NEVERTHELESS. HE STILL CARES ABOUT YOU.
PLUS NOW YOU'RE A MEMBER OF NADIL'S...
HEH HEH.
CHEER UP.
LOOKS LIKE THEY LIKE YOU. A TIGER IN A CAGE...
OH, I'M SORRY. NOT A TIGER... A LITTLE KITTY CAT!
NOW, NOW, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE RUDE.
HA HA HA HA!
I'M JUST A MESSEN-GER.
YOU BAS-TARD.


I'M NOT FALLING...
...FOR YOUR LIES.
Back into human...
THERES NO WAY.
THATS IMPOSSIBLE!
TOO BAD.
RATH ILLUSER IS ON HIS WAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN ON A DEMON HUNT.
AND YOU, A DEMON WHO HASN'T FULFILLED HIS DREAMS.
HOW TRAGIC.
OH REAL?
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
WELL, THEN. I HOPE YOU ENJOY BEING SHYDEMAN'S SERVANT. HAVE FUN EATING PEOPLE!
AND, DON'T EVEN BOTHER GOING AFTER LORD KHARL. YOU WON'T GET IN THE CASTLE.
THINK ABOUT IT.
ALL THIS AGGRESSION COULD REALLY ONLY COME FROM THE DEMONIC DUO.
SHY-DE-MAN AND...
SHY-REN-DORA.
NO. STOP IT.
IT CAN'T BE...
YOU'RE SHYDEMAN'S PUPPET. NOT LORD KHARL'S.
BUT WHY SEEK YOUR VENGEANCE ON THE ALCHEMIST?
MY OH MY
IS BEING SHYDEMAN'S SERVANT NOT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?
SOME-ONE SURE IS CRANKY!
HMPH. YOU'RE DUMB AS A CAT, TOO.
LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT SINCE LORD KHARL TURNED YOU INTO A DEMON, HE MIGHT ALSO BE ABLE TO TURN YOU BACK?
FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

RATH KILLED THEM ALL.
THAT WOULD PLEASE MY MASTER.
YOU BEAT RATH AND FREE YOURSELF OF NADIL'S ARMY.
BUT LET'S SAY YOU GET LUCKY.
I'M JUST PRESENTING YOU WITH OPTIONS.
IN ANY CASE, RATH IS OUT TO KILL YOU. IF YOU FACE HIM...
SO, YOU'RE BLACK-MAILING ME.
SO YOU SEE, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO GET NEAR LORD KHARL...
BECAUSE RATH WILL GET YOU FIRST.

Oh, him...
YOU'VE MET HIM.
HE'S STAYING AT YOUR LODGE RIGHT NOW.
RATH...
... ILLUSER?
RATH ILLU-SER'S STRONG.
MENTION HIS NAME, AND DEMONS QUAKE IN FEAR. HE'S FOUGHT MANY OF THEIR... I MEAN YOUR KIND.
THEY ALL DIED.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
AND THE ONES HE FOUGHT ...

It's a lie—
It's not possible...
To be a human again...
Rath... Cesia...
Khart the Alchemist——...?

HE HE HE...
ALL YOU OPTIONS ARE OVE
Can I do it?
Or be killed!?
Will I live?
YOU EVER WANT TO RECONSIDER, JUST HOLLER.
I'LL BE AROUND... KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU.
BYE, BYE, NOW...
THE GIRL CESIA, TOO.
HERE'S THE DEAL. LORD KHARL WANTS RATH AS RESEARCH MATERIAL.
DEAD OR ALIVE.

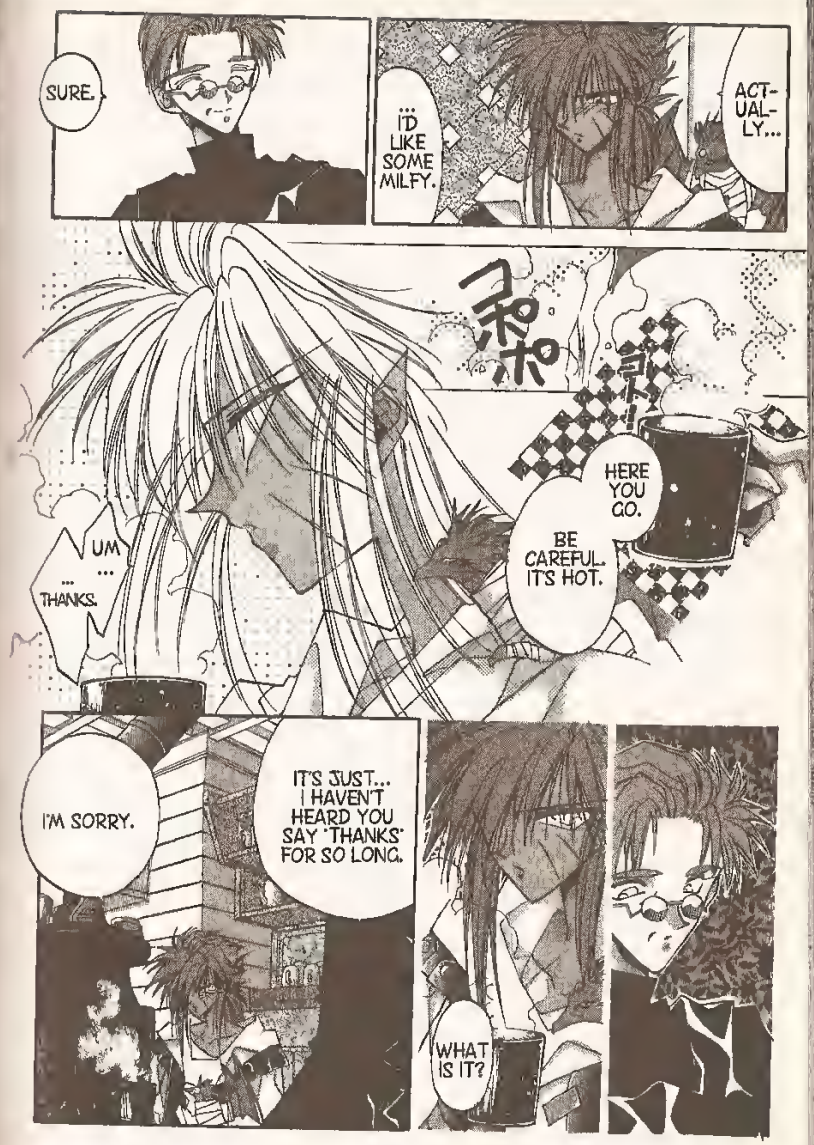
A dragon?

FIRE...
...IS THAT YOU?
IS THIS... MAGIC?
...BIG?!
WHY ARE YOU...
HOW DID YOU GET SO...

WHY WAS FIRE SO BIG?
WAS IT A DREAM?
OH, GOOD MORNING.
NO... ...THANK YOU.
WHERE'S FUJI?
SHE WENT TO FETCH SOME WATER.
SHE SHOULD BE BACK SOON.
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO BE UP THIS EARLY.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BREAK-FAST?

ARGH!
OUCH...
!!
WHAT?
?
I'M SORRY ! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE, FIRE.
SHAKE SHAKE
ARGH...
UH ...
ARGH!
!

YOU WANT SOME?
DON'T BE SORRY.
gasp!
とりあえずほちゃ!!
slip
float
HOT
crash!


SURE.
...I'D LIKE SOME MILFY.
ACT-UAL-LY...
コポポ
HERE YOU GO.
BE CAREFUL. IT'S HOT.
UM ... THANKS.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST... I HAVEN'T HEARD YOU SAY 'THANKS' FOR SO LONG.
WHAT IS IT?

THAT'S A RELIEF.
ALTHOUGH, I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST YOU. AFTER ALL, I AM ONE OF THE FEW WHO KNOWS ALL YOUR SECRETS.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT POISONED.
I WONDER
MY FIRST TASTE OF RATH'S COOKING...
WHERE'S HE GOING WITH THIS?
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SICK, BUT YOU'RE HURT BADLY AND STUCK IN BED SO...
porridge?
I WOULD NEVER POISON YOU. BESIDES, YOU'VE YET TO TELL ME YOUR SECRET.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO KNOW.
TELL ME ABOUT THE ONE-EYED DEMON.
THANK YOU.
I KNOW YOU'LL KEEP YOUR PROMISE.
そ!
MADE IT ALL BY MYSELF.
BREAKFAST'S READY.
My wounds could've opened back up!
RATH!
OW! OW! OW!
aa aa ah!
thud!!

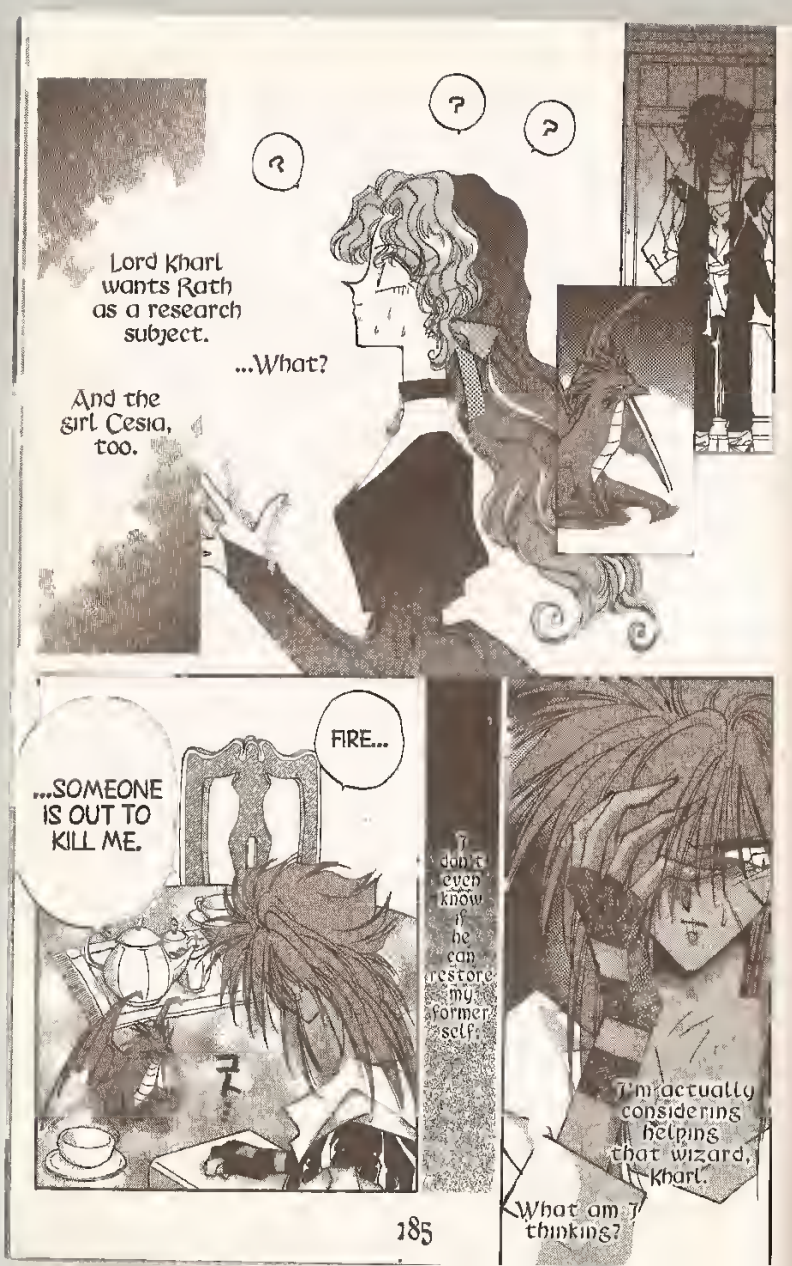
YES. BUT I DON'T FEEL UP TO DISCUSSING IT NOW.
RATH, YOU REALLY ARE OBSESSED WITH DEMON HUNTING.
YOU KNOW WHY, DON'T YOU, KAI-STERN?
I UNDER-STAND.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.
I ENCOUN-TERED HER WHILE IN THE MISTY VALLEY. WE FOUGHT AND SHE LEFT ME WITH THIS.
A REAL NASTY WOMAN.
I'M GUESSING IT'S NOT SELF-INFLICTED. OR WAS IT?
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
THAT SCAR.
A WOMAN?

WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS IT?
IT'S JUST AS THE LODGE KEEPER DESCRIBED.
IT HAS A HUGE MANE, ONE EYE AND SHARP CLAWS.
AND IT CAN USE FIRE MAGIC. JUST LIKE YOU.
I'D CLASSIFY IT AS A FELINE DEMON.
LIKE A BIG CAT?
I SEE. A DEMON CAT...
YEAH. SOME-THING LIKE THAT. IT CAN TALK.
INTER-ESTING...

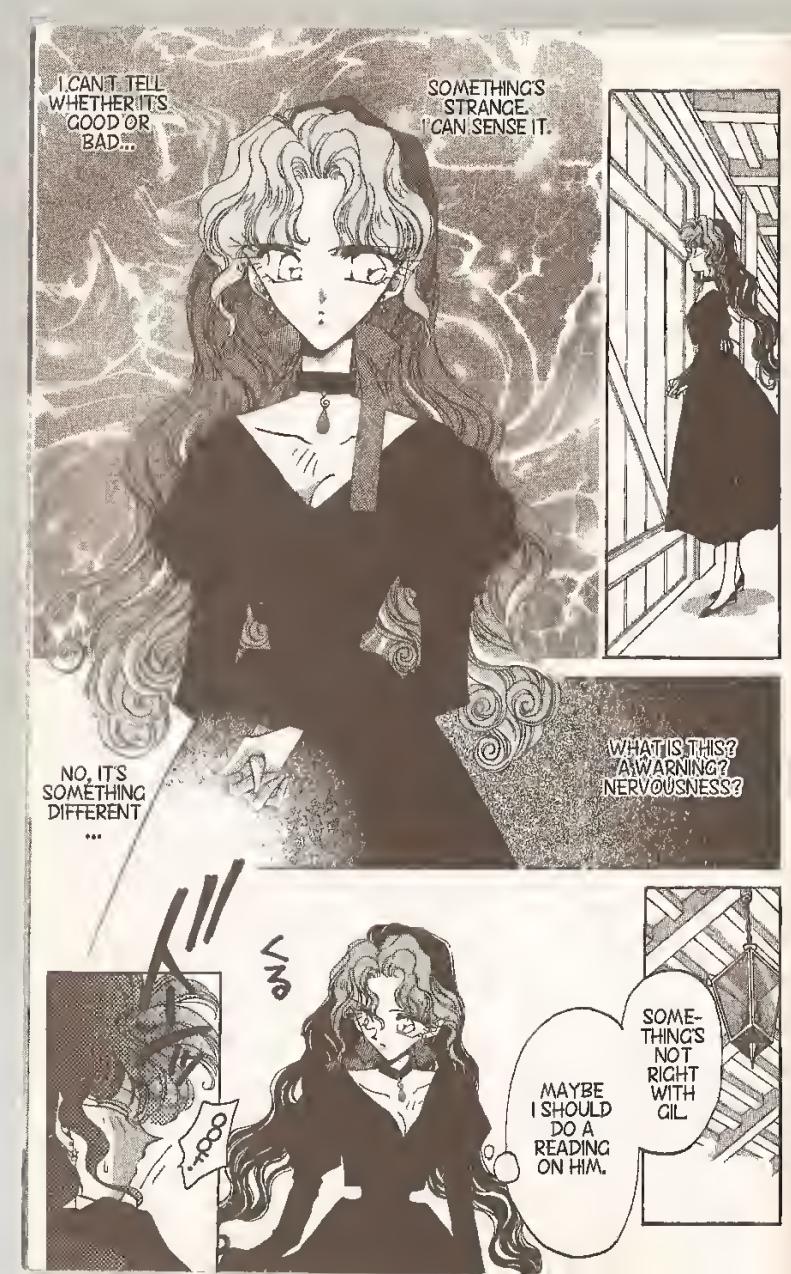
YOU BETTER EAT UP, KAI-STERN.
WAIT A MINUTE!
RATH!
RATH!!
!!
WE ALMOST LOST HIM...
BECAUSE HE WAS GOING TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE?!
...HOW MUCH WE ALL CARE ABOUT HIM!!
HE WAS GOING TO CUT OFF HIS HEAD WITH THE DRAGON SWORD?!
THAT IDIOT!!
HE JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND...
What was he thinking?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN.
WAS SHE A DEMON?
...what?
...AND I WAS PREPARED TO CUT OFF MY OWN HEAD.
SHE ALMOST MADE ME KILL MYSELF.
I WAS NO MATCH FOR HER.
THE DRAGON SWORD...
...I HAD IT AT MY NECK...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T DEFEAT HER?
...IS THAT THE SCRATCH ON MY NECK. DIDN'T SCAR.
WHAT'S REAL STRANGE, THOUGH...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID YOU GET BURNED?
Don't worry!!
I am a fire dragon, after all!
I CAN'T READ THAT. THE WORDS AREN'T FACING ME.
WHERE ARE THEY?
LET'S SEE. EXTRA BAND-AGES
IF FIJI WERE HERE, SHE'D KNOW.
WAIT HERE.
I'LL GO GET MORE BAND-AGES.
I WON'T BE LONG.
She normally greets me every morning.
Come to think of it, I haven't seen her all day.

HOT
I UNDERSTAND, KAI-STERN. WHY DO YOU THINK I TELL YOU THESE THINGS?
THAT WAS THE DEAL.
YOU SURE ARE CLEVER.
IS HE HERE?
WHAT? IM-POSS-IBLE!


Lord Khari wants Rath as a research subject.
...What?
And the girl Cesia, too.
?
?
?
...SOMEONE IS OUT TO KILL ME.
FIRE...
I don't even know if he can restore my former self.
I'm actually considering helping that wizard, Khari.
What am I thinking?

And the girl Cesia, too.
OH...
HI!
GOOD MORNING.
IT'S THAT GUY...
Rath picked a fight with him yesterday.
OH!
THE BANDAGES.
YOU HAD THEM.
WE BORROWED THESE, SO I CAME TO RETURN THEM.


I CAN'T TELL WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD...
SOMETHING'S STRANGE. I CAN SENSE IT.
NO, IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ...
WHAT IS THIS? A WARNING? NERVOUSNESS?
MAYBE I SHOULD DO A READING ON HIM.
SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT WITH GIL.

BUT IF I KILL HIM AND HIS FRIEND...
...I HAVE A CHANCE TO BE NORMAL AGAIN.
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME.
I BLACK OUT WHEN-EVER I USE MY POWERS.
I'M ALREADY A CRIMINAL. I DON'T DESERVE REDEMPTION.
I EVEN KILLED FIJI'S MOTHER.
BUT IF I DO NOTHING, THIS MAN WILL COME TO KILL ME.
...GIVEN THE OPTION...
...IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT GIL GUY?
HUH?
WELL, BECAUSE ...
IS THIS ABOUT THAT FIGHT?
I'M FINE WITH HIM.
AS LONG AS HE STAYS OUT OF MY WAY WHEN I'M HUNTING MY DEMONS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I WAS RETURNING THOSE BANDAGES WE USED.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SOME-THING'S BUGGING ME...
RATH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHY IS FIRE HANGING AROUND?
REALLY? WHAT?
HUh?
I'LL FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER.
DON'T WORRY ...
NEVER MIND.
LET'S GO... CESA.
RATH?
IF I HAD THE FIRE SWORD THINGS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER.
IS FIRE HERE TO BRING ME BACK? OR TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME?

Dragon Knights

In Volume 9:

In a deep, and perhaps long overdue, conversation, Kai-Stern reveals to Cesia that he is searching feverishly for the Wind Dragon, the Dragon with the power to restore life. He wants to save the dying Rath.

Cesia, too, wants to find the Wind Dragon in the hopes of reviving Crewger. But the two of them agree to keep this information from Rath, who they fear might be consumed with senseless anger, as he is prone to do.

But their desire to keep Rath calm in the mind becomes shattered when they meet up with Shydeman and Shyrendora accompanied by hordes of demon agents.

In the midst of this madness, who will Rath destory? And what is the secret he has been hiding for so long?

ARE YOU ACTUALLY COMPLAINING? YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT ABOUT ME.
IT'S HOW WE MET. OR DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
DEMON HUNTING...
THAT'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT.
HOW CAN I FORGET.
LET'S GET BREAKFAST.
I'M STARVED.
FINE.
OH, YEAH. GUESS WHAT? I MADE SOME PORRIDGE FOR KAI-STERN.
I HOPE HE ATE IT ALL.
YOU WHAT ?!!
ONE PERSON DEAD...